KNOCK-ABOUT COMICS

THE FABULOUS FURRY FREAK BROTHERS

£1.99

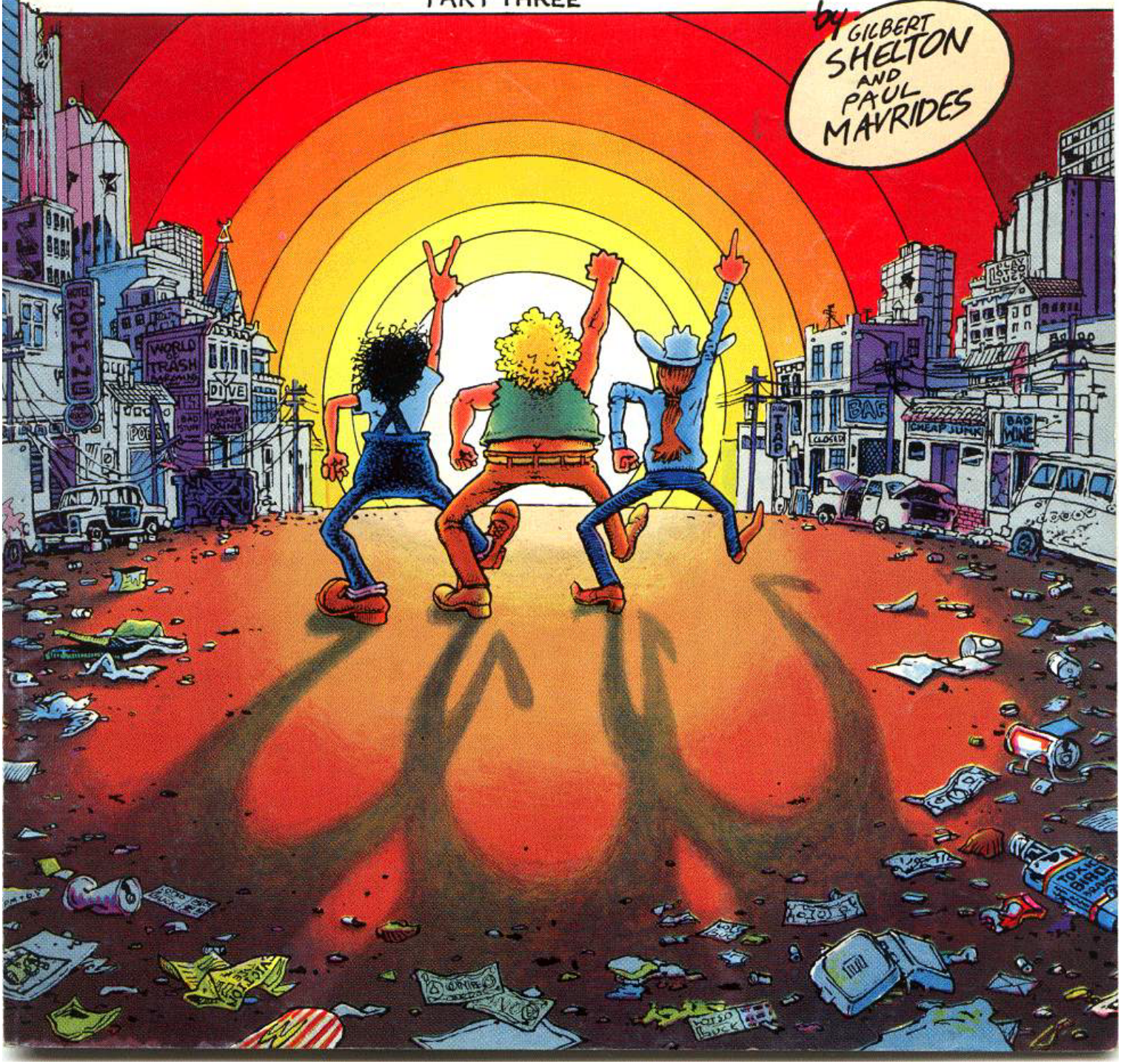
FREAK BROTHERS Nº 10 ™

in

"THE IDIOTS ABROAD"

PART THREE

by GILBERT SHELTON AND PAUL MAVRIDES



As You May Remember...

continued inside back cover...

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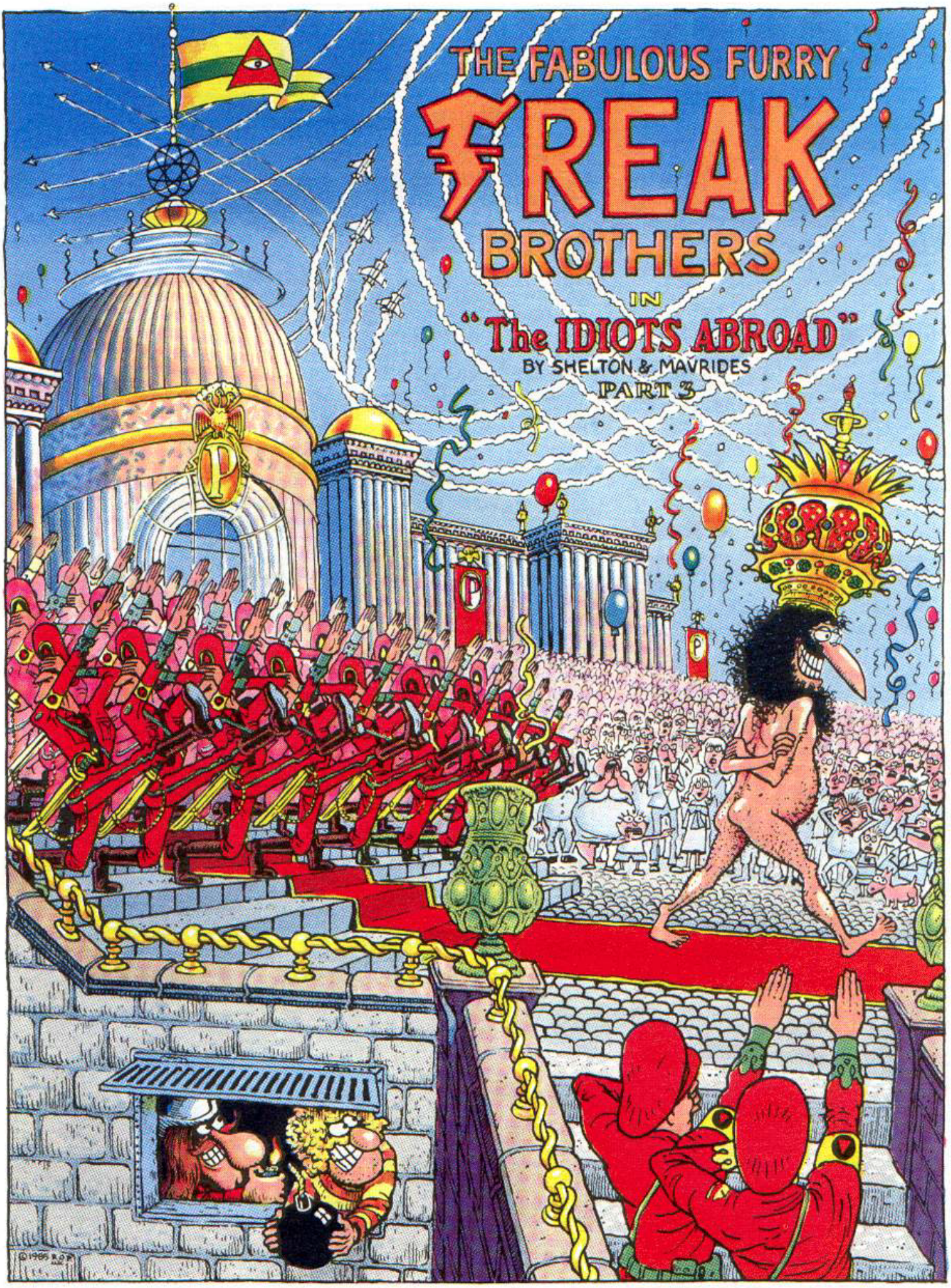
THE FABULOUS FURRY
FREAK
BROTHERS
IN
"The IDIOTS ABROAD"
BY SHELTON & MAVRIDES
PART 3
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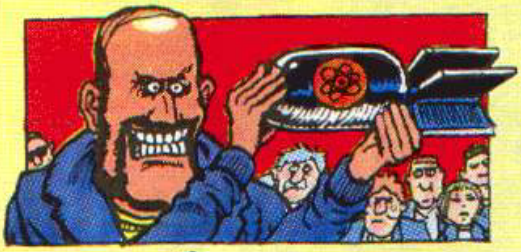
THE CAST OF CHARACTERS

AND A ONE-SENTENCE SYNOPSIS OF THE STORY SO FAR

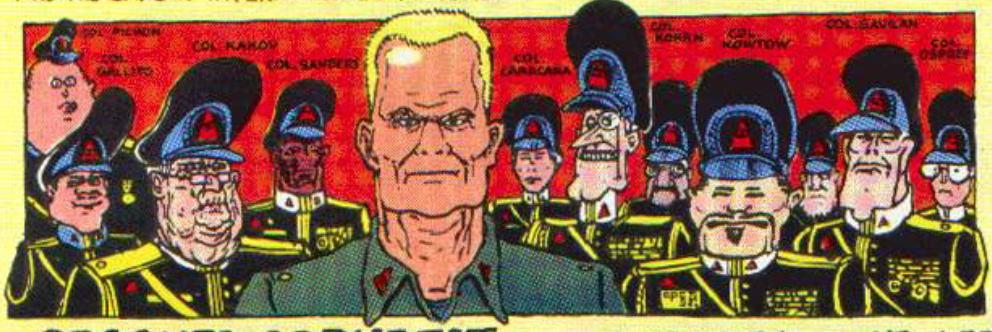
THE FABULOUS FURRY FREAK BROTHERS

NOTORIOUS NORBERT THE NARK

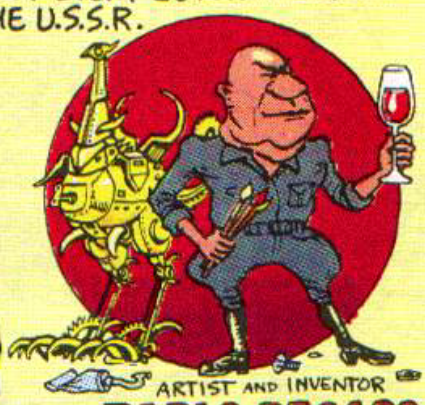


ANDRÉ THE HYENA AND HIS GANG OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISTS

THE **FABULOUS FURRY FREAK BROTHERS** HAD REALLY TRIED TO GO TO BOGOTA SOME TIME AGO AND HAD ACTUALLY GOTTEN AS FAR AS THE AIRPORT, TRAILED UNOBSERVED BY THE NOTORIOUS **NORBERT THE NARK**, WHEN THEY BECAME SEPARATED, **FREEWHEELIN' FRANKLIN** GOING FIRST TO CENTRAL AMERICA IN A RESTORED WWII C-46 PILOTED BY A MYSTERIOUS WOMAN WHO IS A MEMBER OF A **GROUP OF SURVIVALISTS**, THEN ALMOST BEING SHOT BY THE LEADER OF A RIGHT-WING DEATH SQUAD, **COLONEL GALLITO**, AND HIS SON **CADET-COLONEL PICHON**, THEN BEING CAPTURED BY A BOATFUL OF **MODERN-DAY PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN** AND FINALLY BEING SOLD AS A SLAVE IN AFRICA, WHILE **FAT FREDDY** WAS CONDUCTING A HIGH-SPEED CHASE SCENE THROUGHOUT EUROPE, PURSUED BY **ANDRÉ THE HYENA** AND HIS **GANG OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISTS**, FREDDY HAVING UNWITTINGLY RUN OFF WITH ANDRÉ'S NUCLEAR BOMB AND LOST IT IN LOCH NESS, AND AFTER HAVING BEEN RESCUED BY THE ANARCHIST ARTIST-INVENTOR **PABLO PEGASO**, MAKING AN UNPLANNED SIDE TRIP TO MOSCOW, WHERE HE IS ARRESTED FOR SOME TRIVIAL OFFENSE, ONLY TO RESURFACE AT THE SAME AFRICAN SLAVE MARKET AS **FREEWHEELIN' FRANKLIN**, WHERE THEY ARE EVENTUALLY PURCHASED BY A FAT, OILY MAN OF INDETERMINABLE RACIAL ORIGIN WHO TURNS OUT TO BE THEIR OLD ROOMMATE **PHINEAS** AND WHO HAS NOW BEEN THE RICHEST MAN ON EARTH FOR OVER A MONTH THANKS TO HIS AMAZINGLY SUCCESSFUL TELEVISION MAIL-ORDER RELIGION "FUNDALIGIONISM" WHICH INCORPORATES THE SALIENT FEATURES OF ALL THE WORLDS' GREAT RELIGIONS OF ALL HISTORY, AMONG WHICH IS UNFORTUNATELY INCLUDED HUMAN SLAVERY, AND IT IS AS A SLAVE CARRYING PHINEAS IN A PALANQUIN THAT FAT FREDDY READS IN A DISCARDED NEWSPAPER HOW A MILITARY COUP LED BY THE AMERICAN MILITARY ADVISOR FOR EUROPE, **COLONEL CORNBELT**, HAS SEIZED (WITH THE AID OF **ANDRÉ**) CONTROL OF EVERY GOVERNMENT ON EARTH, INCLUDING CHINA AND THE U.S.S.R.



COLONEL CORNBELT AND THE AUTHORITY OF THE NEW ERA



ARTIST AND INVENTOR

PABLO PEGASO

ANARCHIST AND GOURMET

SMILIN' MYLAN

THE HAS-BEEN AIR ACE

THE SURVIVALISTS OF THE CENTRAL AMERICAN MOUNTAINS & THEIR INDIAN FRIENDS

THE LOCH NESS MONSTER

TOPPLE MILITARY: A PROUD HISTORY
SEE PAGE 12

OUR LEADER COL. COBNBELT AUTHORIZES "IT'S A NEW ERA!"

As billions of joyous and care free world citizens gathered in crowds spontaneously weeping happiness, the new leader of entire free world Colonel Cobn made his first ceremonial ic appearance today on eps of the White House ington, D.C., USA, whichhas inted red, yellow and green ipes. Troops marched in review, standing before the reviewing stand Colonel Cobnbelt and his fellow col ormerly

members of the new government including Colonel Kakov of the erstwhile Soviet Union, Colonel El Salvador, Colonel Kowtow of the ex-Peoples Republic of China, Colonel von Hakenkreuz of the Teutonic Orders, Colonels Thom son and Thompson of the Holy Isles,

Colonel and Colonel de husband-and-wife team France, Colonel Potkanik Poland, and various oth dignitaries from all ov And the grateful and pat clap and beat the bottom the ground as the comm Authority strutted jaun Avenue, their polished Uz

PROMISE B CLEAN UP A CORRUPTIO

Notwithstanding

... AND THE GRATEFUL AND PATRIOTIC CITIZENS DID CLAP THEIR HANDS LOUDLY AND BEAT THE BOTTOMS OF THEIR FEET UPON THE GROUND AS THE CAMOUFLAGE-CLAD LEGIONS OF THE NEW AUTHORITY STRUTTED JAUNTILY UP PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, THEIR POLISHED UZI'S HELD AT PRESENT ARMS."

FREDDY! PUT DOWN THAT PIECE OF WORLDLY TRASH AND COME BACK HERE THIS VERY INSTANT!

HOLD YOUR FIRE, GUARDS!

SALE!

IT WAS **THOUGHTFUL** OF YOU TO **BUY** OUR **FREEDOM**, PHINEAS, BUT DO WE **REALLY** HAVE TO **CARRY YOU AROUND** IN THIS STUPID DAMNED **BOX**?

SHUT UP AND **KEEP ON TRUCKIN'!** IT IS **NECESSARY** FOR YOU TO **IMPROVE** YOUR **MUSCULATURE** AND **STAMINA!**

ALL RIGHT, LET'S SET UP CAMP HERE! GET THE **PORTABLE TRANSMITTER** RIGGED!

YES, YOUR EMINENCE! YOU MAY BEGIN YOUR EMISSION IN JUST A FEW MOMENTS!

YOU'RE **LIVE**, SIR!

(AHEM!) **GOOD EVENING**, CITIZENS AND SLAVES! I **SPEAK** TO YOU TONIGHT FROM THAT VAST, SHIMMERING SYMBOL OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT, THE **SAHARA DESERT!**

ARE YOU **POOR**? ARE YOU **MISERABLE**? ARE YOU **AFRAID**? **DEPRESSED**? **TIMID**? **WORRIED**? **BORED**? **NERVOUS**? **LAZY**? **LONELY**? **JEALOUS**? **OBSESSED**? **PARANOID**? **ANY** OF THESE? THEN **JOIN ME, FATHER PHINEAS**, THE **RICHEST PERSON** ON **EARTH**, FOR TODAY'S **HOUR** OF **FUNDALIGIONISM!**

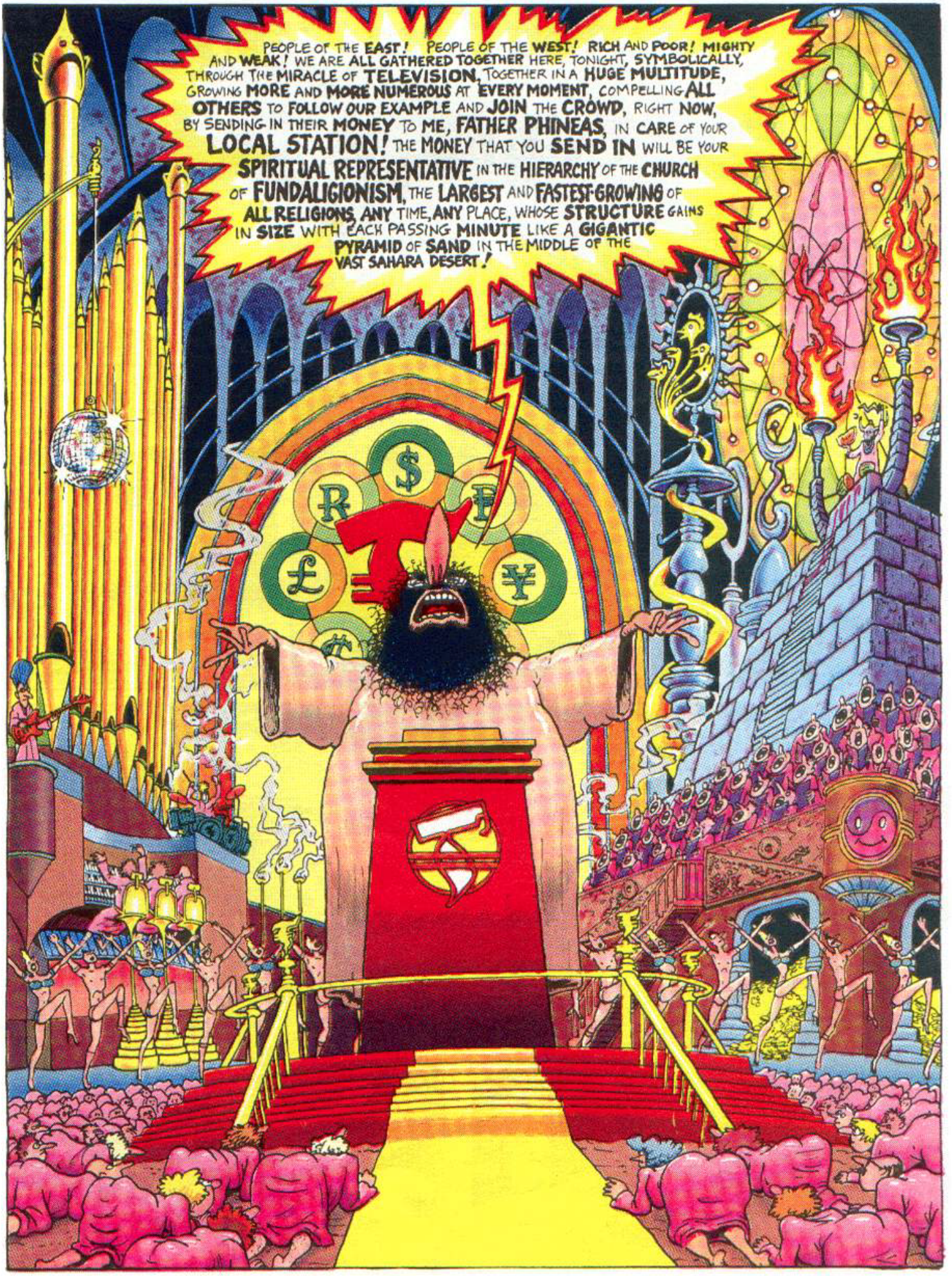
PRAISE FUNDALIGIONISM!!

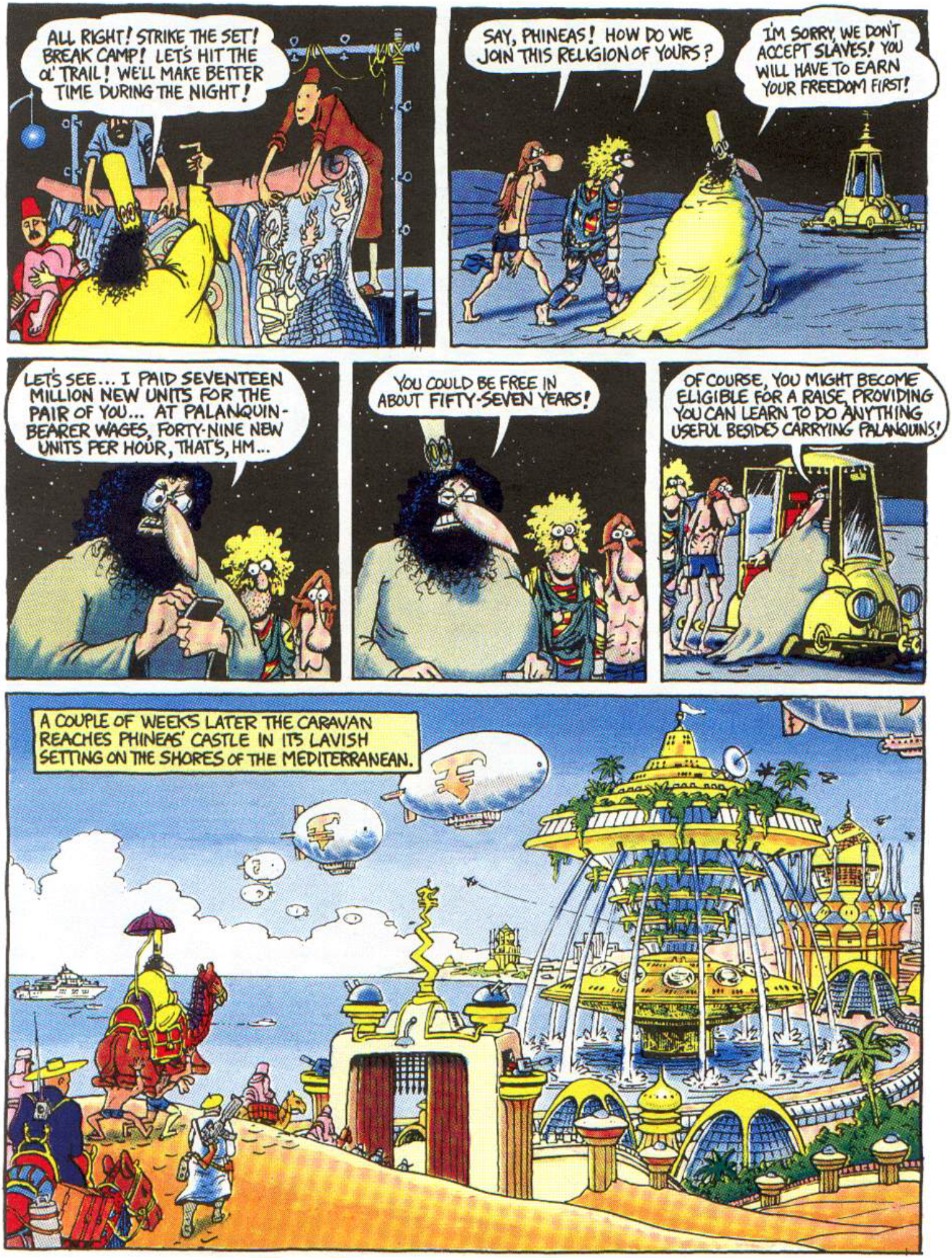
HALLELUJAHGOBBLE! HALLELUJAHGOBBLE!

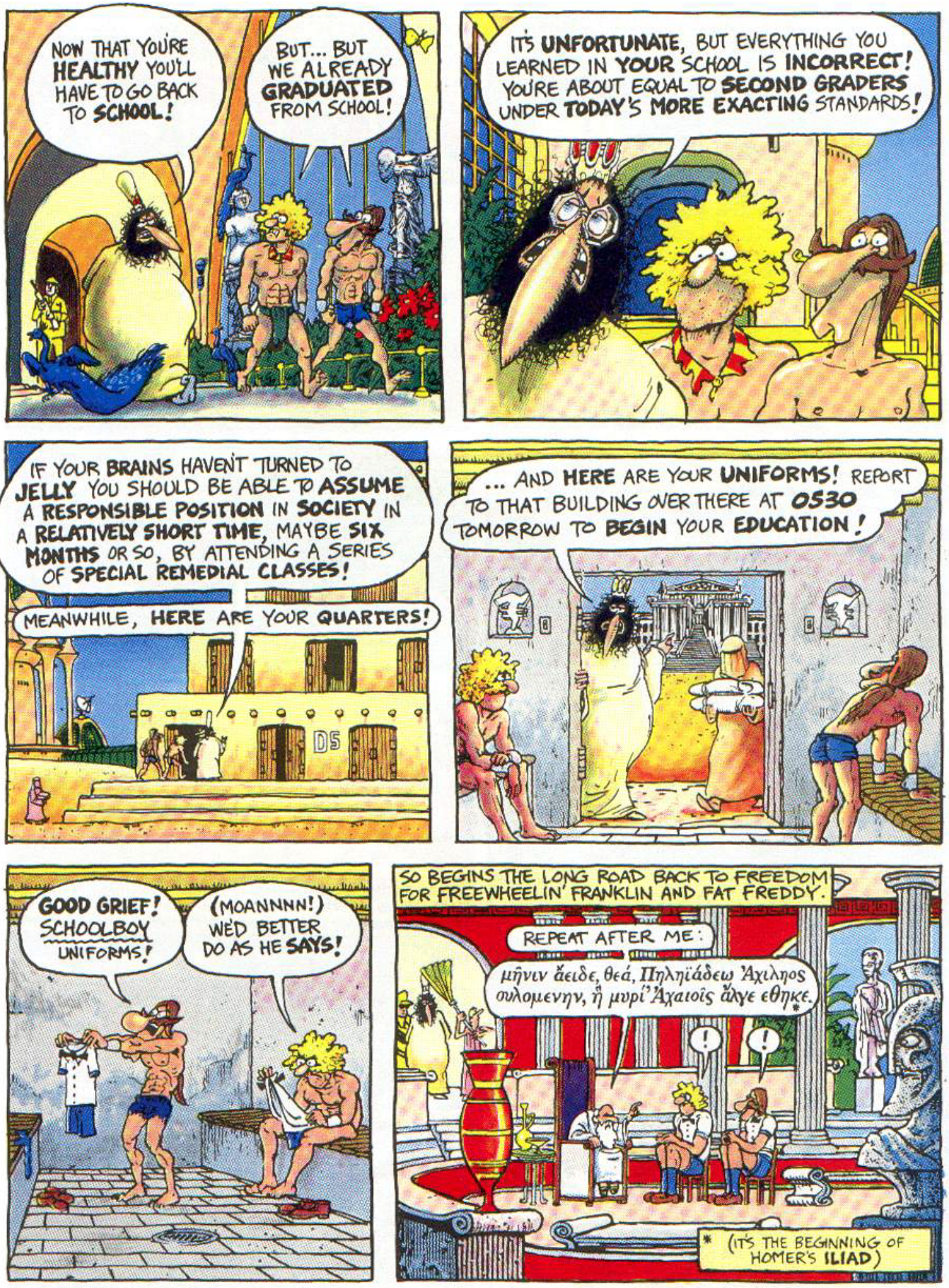
HALLELUJAHGOBBLE! HALLELUJAHGOBBLE!

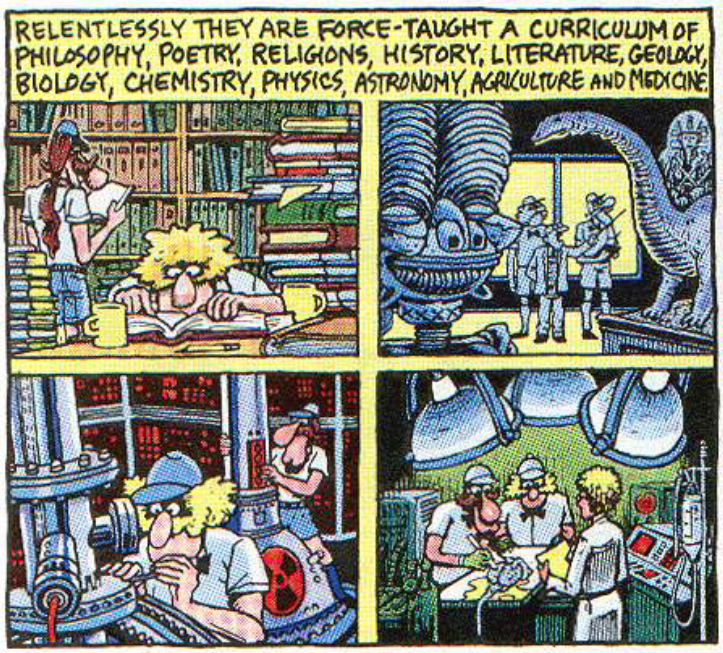
HALLELUJAHGOBBLE! HALLELUJAHGOBBLE!

DO YOU SUFFER FROM ANXIETY? IRRITABILITY? RESTLESSNESS? INSOMNIA? STAY TUNED! THE FUNDALIGIONISM CHANNEL NOW BROADCASTS TWENTY-FOUR HOURS A DAY, SEVEN DAYS A WEEK, EXCEPT WHEN WE ARE INTERRUPTED BY IMPORTANT GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS!
NOW, VERITABLY I SAY UNTO YOU, AND IT IS TRUE THAT YOU SHOULD DO UNTO OTHERS AS YOU WOULD HAVE THEM DO UNTO YOU, THEREFORE DO UNTO ME AS YOU WOULD HAVE ME, PHINEAS, THE RICHEST PERSON ON EARTH, DO UNTO YOU, AND GIVE ME ALL YOUR MONEY, AND I WILL PROMISE TO MAKE THINGS RIGHT FOR YOU IN A VERY SHORT TIME. YOU'LL GET YOUR MONEY'S WORTH TEN TIMES OVER! AS THE PROPHET SAID, "LET NOT THY HAND BE TIED UP TO YOUR NECK! COME CAST YOUR BREAD UPON THE WATERS OF THE FOUNTAIN OF FUNDALIGION! OVER THREE HUNDRED CONVENIENTLY LOCATED WORLDWIDE!
...OR JUST PUT YOUR MONEY IN AN ENVELOPE AND SEND IT TO US! NO CARDS OR LETTERS, PLEASE, JUST MONEY! WE PROMISE TO ANNOUNCE THE NAMES OF ALL MAJOR DONORS AS WELL AS THE AMOUNT OF THEIR CONTRIBUTION FOR OUR VIEWERS TO SEE! THINK HOW ENVIOUS YOUR NEIGHBORS WILL BE WHEN THEY SEE YOUR NAME ON PRIME TIME TELEVISION! THEY'LL DIE OF ENVY!
QUICKLY, BROOK, SEND HIM EVERYTHING IN OUR SAVINGS ACCOUNT!
WE'LL BE THE FIRST IN OUR BLOCK! THE JONESES WILL DIE OF ENVY!
HA HA HA! THEY DON'T REALIZE WE SENT IN OUR MONEY YESTERDAY! THEY'LL DIE OF ENVY! HALLELUJAHGOBBLE! HALLELUJAHGOBBLE!
AS FOR YOU WHO ARE THE WORKERS OF THE WORLD, UNITE! WITH ME! YOU HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE BUT YOUR CHANGE! AS THE LATE OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES SAID, "PUT NOT YOUR TRUST IN MONEY, BUT PUT YOUR MONEY IN TRUST!" WITH ME! AND YOU CAN TRUST ME, PHINEAS, TO BE MYSELF, PHINEAS, THE RICHEST PERSON ON EARTH!
...AND NOW FOR SOME OF THAT FUN WE PROMISED YOU! TRAINED CHIHUAHUAS! CAR RACES! A COUPLE OF INSPIRATIONAL DOCUMENTARIES! AND A QUIZ SHOW! HALLELUJAHGOBBLE! HALLELUJAHGOBBLE! PRAISE FUNDALIGIONISM!
CUT TO TAPES!
YOU BROADCAST TWENTY-FOUR HOURS A DAY? WHEN DO YOU GET TO SLEEP?
OH, IT'S MOSTLY FILLER! I'M ONLY ON LIVE EIGHT HOURS OR SO PER DAY! IT'S EASY!
FIVE SECONDS, SIR!
WE RELAY FROM HERE TO THE MAIN STUDIO! THEY CAN DO ANYTHING IN THE STUDIO! I'M ON CAMERA! AGAIN! NOW WATCH THIS!
CRASH! ROAR! BARK! MOO!
RRRROARRR!
NOT WEIGHED IN THE BALANCE AND FOUND WANTING? TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR WEIGHT LOSS OFFER! COMING UP IN A FEW MINUTES!
AND NOW FOR THE LATEST NEWS! AFTER SEVENTY-EIGHT LAPS, IT'S STILL FANCIETTO IN THE BIG SHINY NUMBER TWENTY-THREE, THE PINK AND YELLOW FUNDALIGIONISM SPECIAL! NEXT, THE LATEST STOCKS AND BONDS!
"Ye shall follow the tides That sow the winds That shall reap the whirlwind Of filthy lucre, Which maketh many friends, Hallelujahgobble." Hallelujahgobble.
BELOVED LISTENER, ARE YOU TROUBLED BY LACK OF WILL POWER AND INABILITY TO MAKE DECISIONS? BOTHERED BY LACK OF SUCCESS? INHIBITIONS? JOB PROBLEMS? FAMILY PROBLEMS? QUICK, TURN OVER YOUR FINANCES TO FUNDALIGIONISM! JUST SEND YOUR PERSONAL BANK ACCOUNT NUMBER TO ME, PHINEAS, YOUR HONEST HIEROPHANT, BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE! DON'T HESITATE! DO IT RIGHT NOW BEFORE YOU LOSE YOUR NERVE! ARE YOU TROUBLED BY LACK OF CONFIDENCE? HANG-UPS? FEAR?
DONATIONS: CALL 1-800-333-666-9999!
FORGET YOUR TROUBLES! LET THE DANCING BEGIN! WE GONNA PARTY! LAISSER LES BONS TEMPS ROULER! EEEEE YOW! YUCKA DUCKA DACKA DOO!
MONEY MONEY MONEY MONEY MONEY MONEY MONEY HALLELUJAHGOBBLE! HALLELUJAHGOBBLE! SACRED RIGADOON OF THE PERICLETES! FROM EACH ACCORDING TO HIS ABILITY! NOW EVERYBODY BOOGIE!

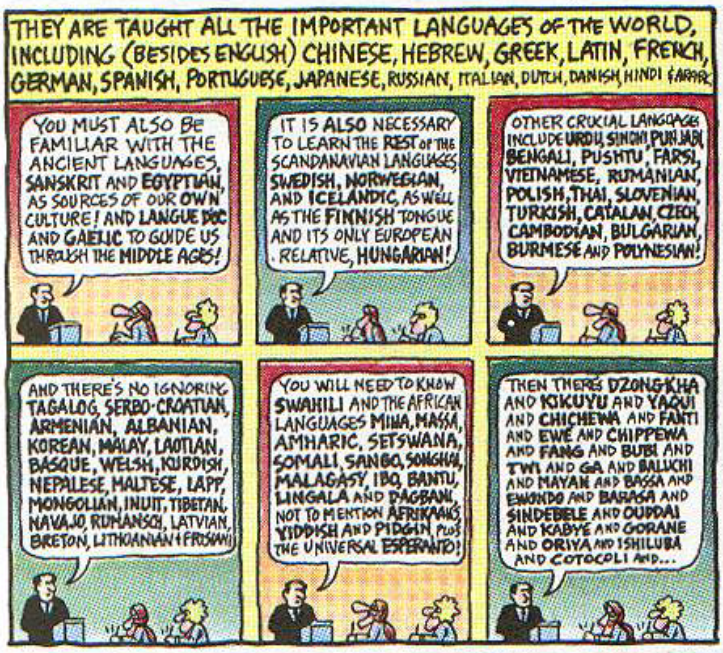

PEOPLE OF THE EAST! PEOPLE OF THE WEST! RICH AND POOR! MIGHTY AND WEAK! WE ARE ALL GATHERED TOGETHER HERE, TONIGHT, SYMBOLICALLY, THROUGH THE MIRACLE OF TELEVISION. TOGETHER IN A HUGE MULTITUDE, GROWING MORE AND MORE NUMEROUS AT EVERY MOMENT, COMPELLING ALL OTHERS TO FOLLOW OUR EXAMPLE AND JOIN THE CROWD, RIGHT NOW, BY SENDING IN THEIR MONEY TO ME, FATHER PHINEAS, IN CARE OF YOUR LOCAL STATION! THE MONEY THAT YOU SEND IN WILL BE YOUR SPIRITUAL REPRESENTATIVE IN THE HIERARCHY OF THE CHURCH OF FUNDALIGIONISM, THE LARGEST AND FASTEST-GROWING OF ALL RELIGIONS, ANY TIME, ANY PLACE, WHOSE STRUCTURE GAINS IN SIZE WITH EACH PASSING MINUTE LIKE A GIGANTIC PYRAMID OF SAND IN THE MIDDLE OF THE VAST SAHARA DESERT!

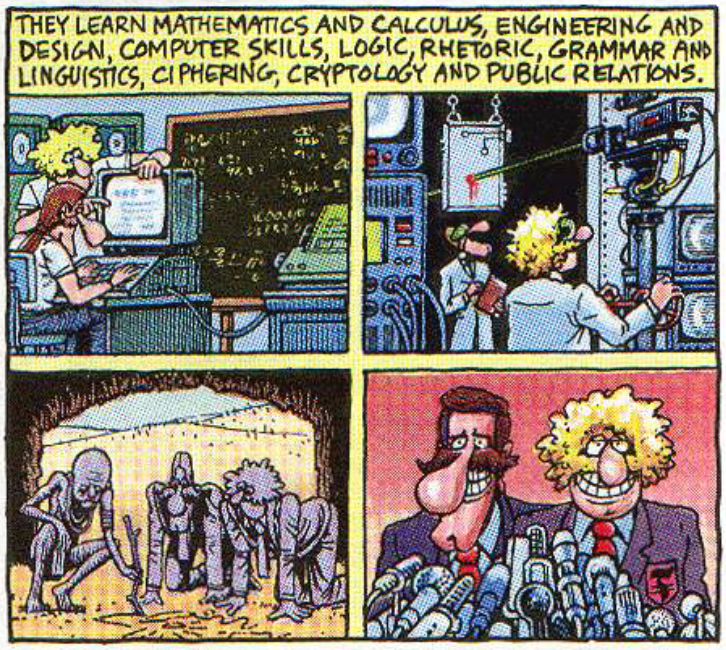

ALL RIGHT! STRIKE THE SET! BREAK CAMP! LET'S HIT THE OL' TRAIL! WE'LL MAKE BETTER TIME DURING THE NIGHT!
SAY, PHINEAS! HOW DO WE JOIN THIS RELIGION OF YOURS?
I'M SORRY, WE DON'T ACCEPT SLAVES! YOU WILL HAVE TO EARN YOUR FREEDOM FIRST!
LET'S SEE... I PAID SEVENTEEN MILLION NEW UNITS FOR THE PAIR OF YOU... AT PALANQUIN-BEARER WAGES, FORTY-NINE NEW UNITS PER HOUR, THAT'S, HM...
YOU COULD BE FREE IN ABOUT FIFTY-SEVEN YEARS!
OF COURSE, YOU MIGHT BECOME ELIGIBLE FOR A RAISE, PROVIDING YOU CAN LEARN TO DO ANYTHING USEFUL BESIDES CARRYING PALANQUINS!
A COUPLE OF WEEKS LATER THE CARAVAN REACHES PHINEAS' CASTLE IN ITS LAVISH SETTING ON THE SHORES OF THE MEDITERRANEAN.


NOW THAT YOU'RE HEALTHY YOU'LL HAVE TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL!
BUT... BUT WE ALREADY GRADUATED FROM SCHOOL!
IT'S UNFORTUNATE, BUT EVERYTHING YOU LEARNED IN YOUR SCHOOL IS INCORRECT! YOU'RE ABOUT EQUAL TO SECOND GRADERS UNDER TODAY'S MORE EXACTING STANDARDS!
IF YOUR BRAINS HAVEN'T TURNED TO JELLY YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO ASSUME A RESPONSIBLE POSITION IN SOCIETY IN A RELATIVELY SHORT TIME, MAYBE SIX MONTHS OR SO, BY ATTENDING A SERIES OF SPECIAL REMEDIAL CLASSES!
MEANWHILE, HERE ARE YOUR QUARTERS!
D5
... AND HERE ARE YOUR UNIFORMS! REPORT TO THAT BUILDING OVER THERE AT 0530 TOMORROW TO BEGIN YOUR EDUCATION!
GOOD GRIEF! SCHOOLBOY UNIFORMS!
(MOANNNN!) WE'D BETTER DO AS HE SAYS!
SO BEGINS THE LONG ROAD BACK TO FREEDOM FOR FREEWHEELIN' FRANKLIN AND FAT FREDDY.
REPEAT AFTER ME:
μῆνιν ἄειδε, θεά, Πηληϊάδεω Ἀχιλῆος οὐλομένην, ἣ μυρί' Ἀχαιοῖς ἄλγε ἔθηκε.*
!
!
* (IT'S THE BEGINNING OF HOMER'S ILIAD)

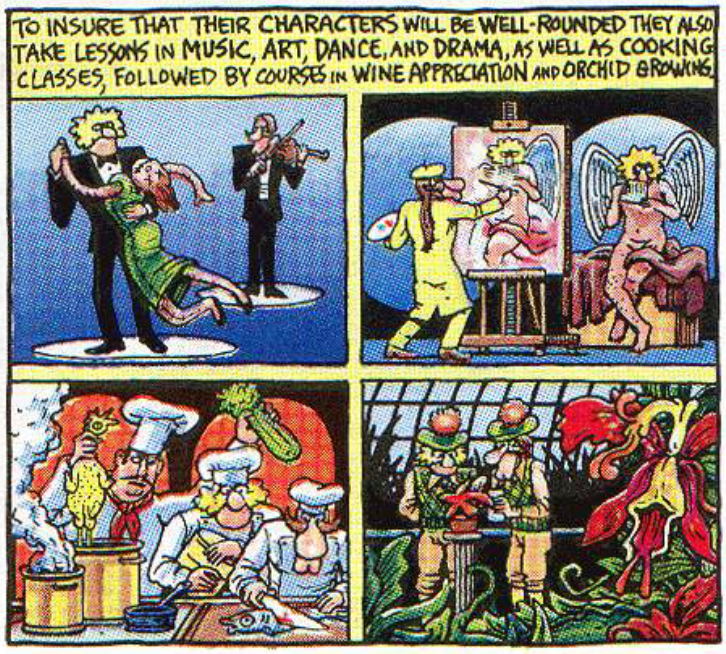

RELENTLESSLY THEY ARE FORCE-TAUGHT A CURRICULUM OF PHILOSOPHY, POETRY, RELIGIONS, HISTORY, LITERATURE, GEOLOGY, BIOLOGY, CHEMISTRY, PHYSICS, ASTRONOMY, AGRICULTURE AND MEDICINE

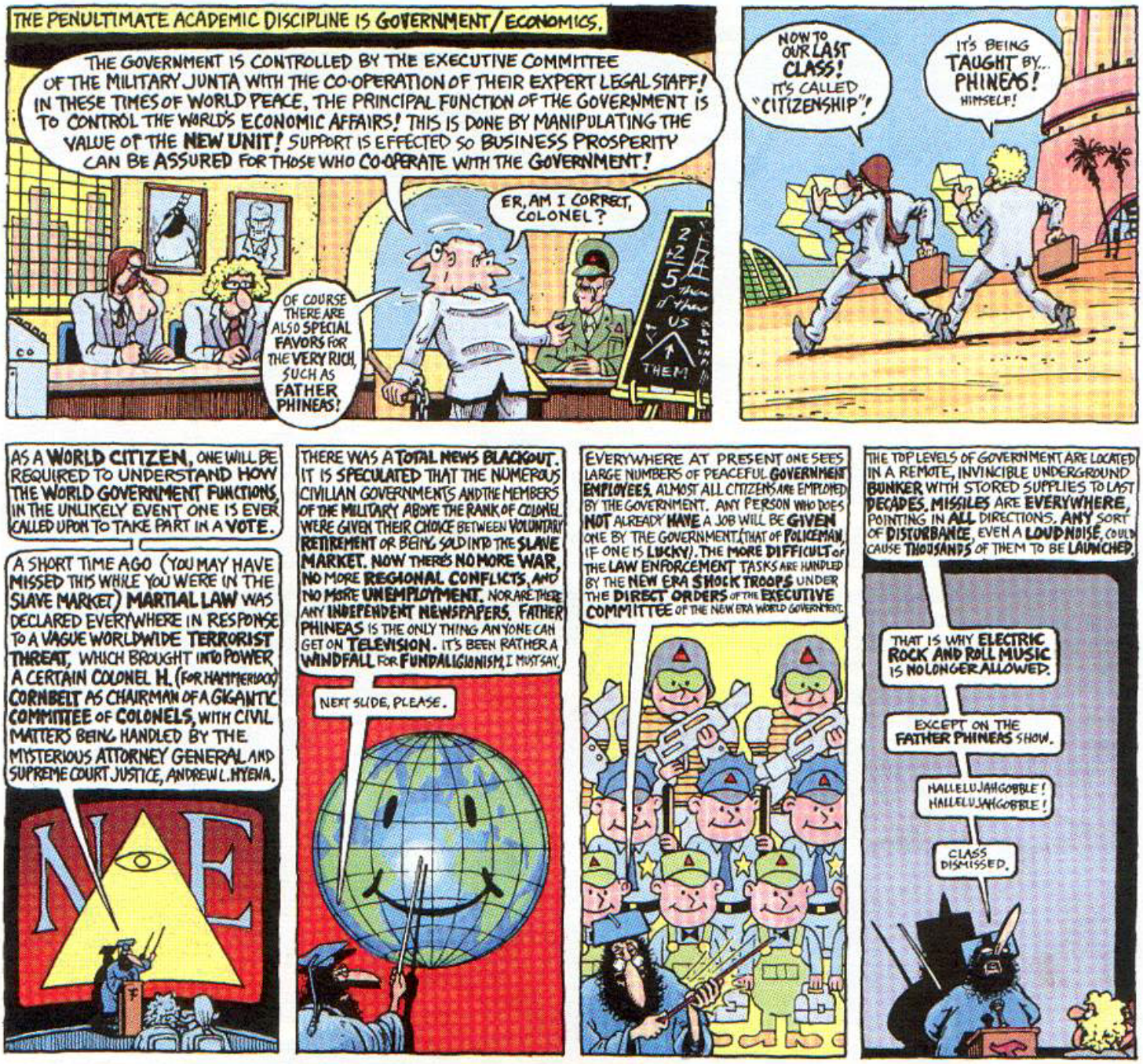
THEIR BRAINS ARE FED WITH THE WORDS AND THOUGHTS OF CONFUCIUS AND MOHAMMHED, PLATO AND ARISTOTLE, VIRGIL AND DANTE, NEWTON AND DESCARTES, CHAUCER, SHAKESPEARE, SWIFT, NIETZSCHE, MARX, EINSTEIN AND SARTRE
ALSO:
SENECA
MACHIAVELLI
THE BUDDHA
BACON
SPINOZA
SCHOPENHAUER
VOLTAIRE
JEFFERSON
LEIBNIZ
WM. JAMES
NOT TO MENTION:
AND, OF COURSE...
PYTHAGORAS
ERASMUS
ROUSSEAU
GANDHI
PHINEAS

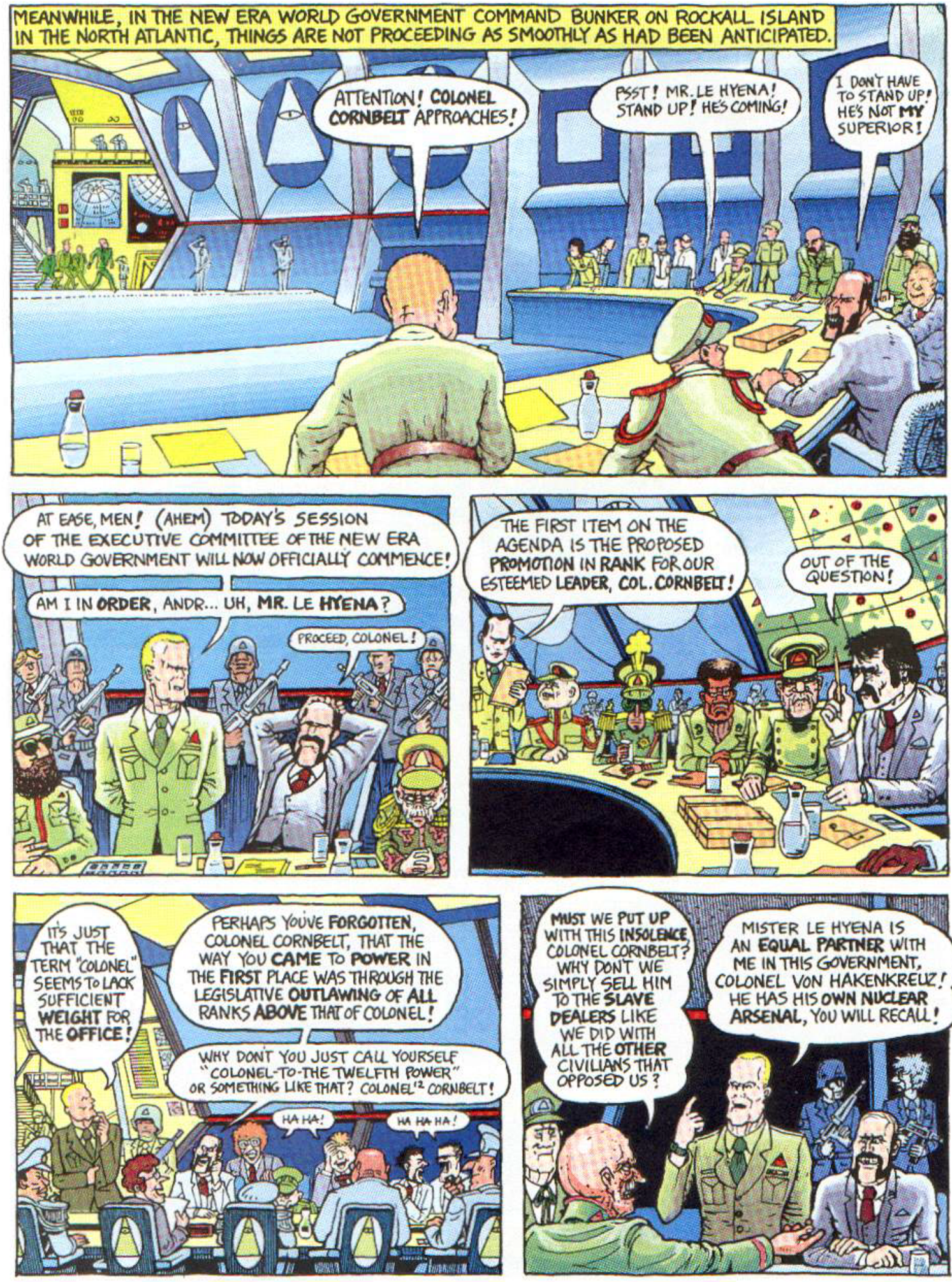

THEY ARE TAUGHT ALL THE IMPORTANT LANGUAGES OF THE WORLD, INCLUDING (BESIDES ENGLISH) CHINESE, HEBREW, GREEK, LATIN, FRENCH, GERMAN, SPANISH, PORTUGUESE, JAPANESE, RUSSIAN, ITALIAN, DUTCH, DANISH, HINDI & FARSI.
YOU MUST ALSO BE FAMILIAR WITH THE ANCIENT LANGUAGES, SANSKRIT AND EGYPTIAN, AS SOURCES OF OUR OWN CULTURE! AND LANGUE D'OC AND GAELIC TO GUIDE US THROUGH THE MIDDLE AGES!
IT IS ALSO NECESSARY TO LEARN THE REST OF THE SCANDANAVIAN LANGUAGES, SWEDISH, NORWEGIAN, AND ICELANDIC, AS WELL AS THE FINNISH TONGUE AND ITS ONLY EUROPEAN RELATIVE, HUNGARIAN!
OTHER CRUCIAL LANGUAGES INCLUDE URDU, SINDHI, PUNJABI, BENGALI, PUSHTU, FARSI, VIETNAMESE, RUMANIAN, POLISH, THAI, SLOVENIAN, TURKISH, CATALAN, CZECH, CAMBODIAN, BULGARIAN, BURMESE AND POLYNESIAN!
AND THERE'S NO IGNORING TAGALOG, SERBO-CROATIAN, ARMENIAN, ALBANIAN, KOREAN, MALAY, LAOTIAN, BASQUE, WELSH, KURDISH, NEPALESE, MALTESE, LAPP, MONGOLIAN, INUIT, TIBETAN, NAVAJO, RUMANSCH, LATVIAN, BRETON, LITHUANIAN & FRISIAN!
YOU WILL NEED TO KNOW SWAHILI AND THE AFRICAN LANGUAGES MINA, MASSA, AMHARIC, SETSWANA, SOMALI, SANGO, SONGHAI, MALAGASY, IBO, BANTU, LINGALA AND D'AGBANI, NOT TO MENTION AFRIKAANS, YIDDISH AND PIDGIN, PLUS THE UNIVERSAL ESPERANTO!
THEN THERE'S DZONGKHA AND KIKUYU AND YAQUI AND CHICHEWA AND FANTI AND EWE AND CHIPPEWA AND FANG AND BUBI AND TWI AND GA AND BALUCHI AND MAYAN AND BASSA AND EWONDO AND BARASA AND SINDEBELE AND OUDDAI AND KABYE AND GORANE AND ORIYA AND ISHILUBA AND COTOCOLI AND...


THEY LEARN MATHEMATICS AND CALCULUS, ENGINEERING AND DESIGN, COMPUTER SKILLS, LOGIC, RHETORIC, GRAMMAR AND LINGUISTICS, CIPHERING, CRYPTOLOGY AND PUBLIC RELATIONS.

SPORTS ARE NOT NEGLECTED: INCLUDED IN THE ACADEMIC SCHEDULE ARE EQUESTRIAN SKILLS, SAILING, SCUBADIVING, MOUNTAIN CLIMBING, FLYING, MOTORCYCLE ICE-RACING, AND MARTIAL ARTS.
EQUESTRIAN? IT MEANS "ON HORSEBACK"!
OHH!
...AND MORE MARTIAL ARTS.


TO INSURE THAT THEIR CHARACTERS WILL BE WELL-ROUNDED THEY ALSO TAKE LESSONS IN MUSIC, ART, DANCE, AND DRAMA, AS WELL AS COOKING CLASSES, FOLLOWED BY COURSES IN WINE APPRECIATION AND ORCHID GROWING.


THE PENULTIMATE ACADEMIC DISCIPLINE IS GOVERNMENT/ECONOMICS.
THE GOVERNMENT IS CONTROLLED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE MILITARY JUNTA WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF THEIR EXPERT LEGAL STAFF! IN THESE TIMES OF WORLD PEACE, THE PRINCIPAL FUNCTION OF THE GOVERNMENT IS TO CONTROL THE WORLD'S ECONOMIC AFFAIRS! THIS IS DONE BY MANIPULATING THE VALUE OF THE NEW UNIT! SUPPORT IS EFFECTED SO BUSINESS PROSPERITY CAN BE ASSURED FOR THOSE WHO CO-OPERATE WITH THE GOVERNMENT!
ER, AM I CORRECT, COLONEL?
OF COURSE THERE ARE ALSO SPECIAL FAVORS FOR THE VERY RICH, SUCH AS FATHER PHINEAS!
2+2=5 then if there is US THEM
NOW TO OUR LAST CLASS! IT'S CALLED "CITIZENSHIP"!
IT'S BEING TAUGHT BY... PHINEAS! HIMSELF!
AS A WORLD CITIZEN, ONE WILL BE REQUIRED TO UNDERSTAND HOW THE WORLD GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONS, IN THE UNLIKELY EVENT ONE IS EVER CALLED UPON TO TAKE PART IN A VOTE.
A SHORT TIME AGO (YOU MAY HAVE MISSED THIS WHILE YOU WERE IN THE SLAVE MARKET) MARTIAL LAW WAS DECLARED EVERYWHERE IN RESPONSE TO A VAGUE WORLDWIDE TERRORIST THREAT, WHICH BROUGHT INTO POWER A CERTAIN COLONEL H. (FOR HAMMERHEAD) CORNBELT AS CHAIRMAN OF A GIGANTIC COMMITTEE OF COLONELS, WITH CIVIL MATTERS BEING HANDLED BY THE MYSTERIOUS ATTORNEY GENERAL AND SUPREME COURT JUSTICE, ANDREW L. MYENA.
NE
THERE WAS A TOTAL NEWS BLACKOUT. IT IS SPECULATED THAT THE NUMEROUS CIVILIAN GOVERNMENTS AND THE MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY ABOVE THE RANK OF COLONEL WERE GIVEN THEIR CHOICE BETWEEN VOLUNTARY RETIREMENT OR BEING SOLD INTO THE SLAVE MARKET. NOW THERE'S NO MORE WAR, NO MORE REGIONAL CONFLICTS, AND NO MORE UNEMPLOYMENT. NOR ARE THERE ANY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPERS. FATHER PHINEAS IS THE ONLY THING ANYONE CAN GET ON TELEVISION. IT'S BEEN RATHER A WINDFALL FOR FUNDALIGIONISM, I MUST SAY.
NEXT SLIDE, PLEASE.
EVERYWHERE AT PRESENT ONE SEES LARGE NUMBERS OF PEACEFUL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES. ALMOST ALL CITIZENS ARE EMPLOYED BY THE GOVERNMENT. ANY PERSON WHO DOES NOT ALREADY HAVE A JOB WILL BE GIVEN ONE BY THE GOVERNMENT. (THAT OF POLICEMAN, IF ONE IS LUCKY). THE MORE DIFFICULT OF THE LAW ENFORCEMENT TASKS ARE HANDLED BY THE NEW ERA SHOCK TROOPS UNDER THE DIRECT ORDERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE NEW ERA WORLD GOVERNMENT.
THE TOP LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT ARE LOCATED IN A REMOTE, INVINCIBLE UNDERGROUND BUNKER WITH STORED SUPPLIES TO LAST DECADES. MISSILES ARE EVERYWHERE, POINTING IN ALL DIRECTIONS. ANY SORT OF DISTURBANCE, EVEN A LOUD NOISE, COULD CAUSE THOUSANDS OF THEM TO BE LAUNCHED.
THAT IS WHY ELECTRIC ROCK AND ROLL MUSIC IS NO LONGER ALLOWED.
EXCEPT ON THE FATHER PHINEAS SHOW.
HALLELUJAHGOBBLE! HALLELUJAHGOBBLE!
CLASS DISMISSED.
FINAL EXAMINATIONS ARE A VERY SERIOUS EVENT IN NEW ERA CULTURE.
BY THE SACRED GROVES OF ACADEME, THAT WAS ONE BITCH OF A TEST! YOU THINK WE PASSED, FREDDY?
...BUZZ... IF $\Psi_a^{(+)}$ AND Φ_b THEN $T_{a\to b}^{(x)} = \langle \Phi_b | (H_a + U_a - H_\beta) | X_a^{(+)} \rangle = V_{\beta p} + G_{\beta p} X^b$ AND $R_\lambda^{m'} = \frac{4\pi Z e}{\lambda - \lambda'} = \int \xi_b^{(-)*} (R_z U_p M_b | Q_m^m | \alpha J_\alpha M_\alpha D^{(-)} \Phi(\Sigma_m ..BUZZ.. \xi^z ..BUZZ...$

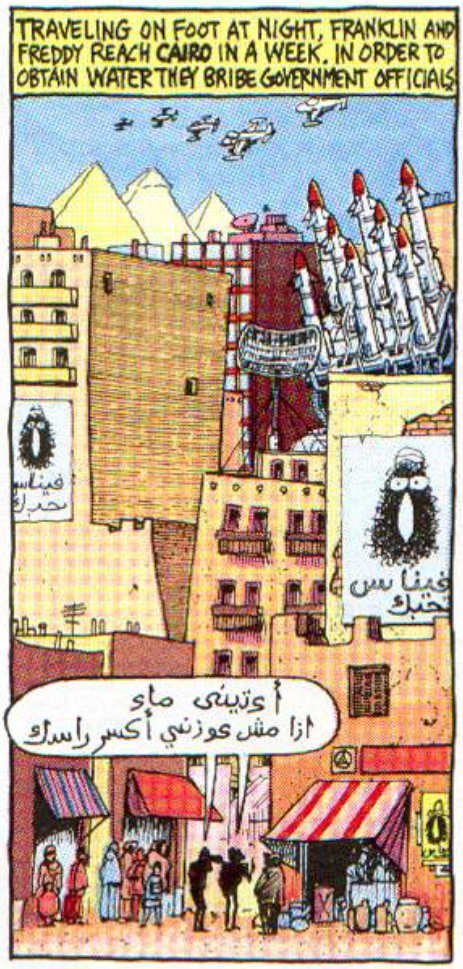

MEANWHILE, IN THE NEW ERA WORLD GOVERNMENT COMMAND BUNKER ON ROCKALL ISLAND IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC, THINGS ARE NOT PROCEEDING AS SMOOTHLY AS HAD BEEN ANTICIPATED.
ATTENTION! COLONEL CORNBELT APPROACHES!
PSST! MR. LE HYENA! STAND UP! HE'S COMING!
I DON'T HAVE TO STAND UP! HE'S NOT MY SUPERIOR!
AT EASE, MEN! (AHEM) TODAY'S SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE NEW ERA WORLD GOVERNMENT WILL NOW OFFICIALLY COMMENCE!
AM I IN ORDER, ANDR... UH, MR. LE HYENA?
PROCEED, COLONEL!
THE FIRST ITEM ON THE AGENDA IS THE PROPOSED PROMOTION IN RANK FOR OUR ESTEEMED LEADER, COL. CORNBELT!
OUT OF THE QUESTION!
IT'S JUST THAT THE TERM "COLONEL" SEEMS TO LACK SUFFICIENT WEIGHT FOR THE OFFICE!
PERHAPS YOU'VE FORGOTTEN, COLONEL CORNBELT, THAT THE WAY YOU CAME TO POWER IN THE FIRST PLACE WAS THROUGH THE LEGISLATIVE OUTLAWING OF ALL RANKS ABOVE THAT OF COLONEL!
WHY DON'T YOU JUST CALL YOURSELF "COLONEL-TO-THE TWELFTH POWER" OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT? COLONEL^{12} CORNBELT!
HA HA!
HA HA HA!
MUST WE PUT UP WITH THIS INSOLENCE, COLONEL CORNBELT? WHY DON'T WE SIMPLY SELL HIM TO THE SLAVE DEALERS LIKE WE DID WITH ALL THE OTHER CIVILIANS THAT OPPOSED US?
MISTER LE HYENA IS AN EQUAL PARTNER WITH ME IN THIS GOVERNMENT, COLONEL VON HAKENKREUZ! HE HAS HIS OWN NUCLEAR ARSENAL, YOU WILL RECALL!

AMONG US MILITARY MEMBERS OF NEW ERA, WE POSSESS FORTY-EIGHT MILLION, SIX HUNDRED AND NINETY-NINE THOUSAND, SEVEN HUNDRED AND FIFTY-TWO POINT FIVE NUCLEAR WARHEADS, MISTER LE HYENA! HOW MANY DO YOU HAVE?
HA HA! DON'T YOU WISH YOU KNEW!
THAT'S SUPPOSED TO BE A SECRET, COLONEL GALLITO! WILL YOU PLEASE BUTTON YOUR FLAPPING LIP?
DON'T YOU BE TELLING ME HOW TO DRESS, COLONEL BLEEMP! I AM A COLONEL JUST LIKE YOU!
(THESE GUYS ARE NO PROBLEM TO BLUFF! I JUST WISH I KNEW WHERE MY ONE BOMB IS! I MIGHT NEED IT SOME DAY!)
EVERYONE BE QUIET! THERE'S SOMETHING ON TELEVISION I THINK WE SHOULD BE WATCHING!
WHAT'S THAT, CHAPLAIN?
CLICK
IT'S THE FATHER PHINEAS SHOW ON THE FUNDALIGIONISM CHANNEL! SAY HALLELUJAHGOBBLE! NOW, ARE YOU HAVING TROUBLE IN YOUR PERSONAL LIFE AND RELATIONSHIPS? PERHAPS YOU FORGOT TO PERFORM THE RITUAL LIGHTENING OF THE WALLET THIS MORNING! AS THE POET JOHN HEYWOOD SAID, "THE LOSS OF WEALTH IS LOSS OF DIRT!" HALLELUJAHGOBBLE HALLELUJAHGOBBLE!
HALLELUJAHGOBBLE!
HALLELUJAHGOBBLE!
GOT THAT MONEY IN THE ENVELOPE, NOW? ALL RIGHT! EVERYONE FACE DOWN ON THE FLOOR! DO FORTY PUSH-UPS!
SOMETHING FOR EVERYBODY, EH, COLONEL CORNBELT?
HALLELUJAHGOBBLE!
GET ME "FATHER" PHINEAS ON THE PHONE!
YES, SIR!

MEANWHILE, FREEWHEELIN' FRANKLIN AND FAT FREDDY HAVE BEEN AWARDED THEIR FREEDOM.
HERE ARE YOUR OFFICIAL DIPLOMAS. YOU ARE NOW FREE CITIZENS OF THE NEW ERA WORLD GOVERNMENT.
TAP TAP
WHOOPEE! LET'S GET PACKED AND GET OUT OF HERE! WHEN'S THE NEXT BUS?
BUS, HECK! I'LL WALK OUTA HERE!
OF COURSE YOU ARE FREE TO LEAVE IF YOU WISH. BUT IT'S DANGEROUS OUT THERE, REMEMBER. MOST TRAVELERS GET MURDERED BEFORE THEY GET FIFTY MILES. ON THE OTHER HAND, IF YOU STAY HERE YOU'LL BE SAFE AND I THINK YOU CAN WORK IN THE CHURCH'S PUBLICITY DEPARTMENT.
"CANTABIT VACEUS CORAM LATRONE VIATOR."
"QUI MORI DIDICIT SERVIRE DEDIDICIT."
"MON METIER ET MON ART, C'EST VIVRE."
THE PAY IS TWO THOUSAND MEGAUNITS PER HOUR. THAT'S MORE THAN THE NEW PRESIDENT OF GENERAL MOTORS MAKES, EVEN AFTER THE STANDARD FIFTY PER CENT DONATION TO THE CHURCH IS DEDUCTED.
YOU'LL BE IN CHARGE OF THE FATHER PHINEAS PERSONALITY POSTERS DIVISION. YOU'LL EACH HAVE YOUR OWN OFFICIAL COMPANY FERRARI AND YOUR OWN YACHT. ALSO UNLIMITED USE OF AIRPLANES OF THE CHURCH'S FLEET. PENTHOUSE APARTMENTS AND EXECUTIVE SUITES IN THE MAIN TOWER. IT'S AN OFFER YOU CAN'T REFUSE.
YOU'RE (CHOKE) RIGHT! WE (SOB) ACCEPT!
I THINK POSTER NUMBER 657 NEEDS MORE COLOR IN THE HAIR. AND CHANGE THE TYPE FACE TO A SIXTY-FOUR POINT CENTURION GOTHIC BOLD ITALIC WITH A LIGHT BLUE SHADOW. PUT MORE PURPLE IN MY ROBE ON THAT NUMBER 410. THERE. MUCH BETTER. TAKE THOSE BAGS OFF FROM UNDER MY EYES ON NUMBER 822, PLEASE.
TELEPHONE FOR YOU, YOUR DIVINITY! IT'S OUR LEADER, COLONEL CORNBELT!
PUT HIM ON HOLD.
WE NEED TEN PHOTOGRAPHERS BY 3:30! CALL THE AGENCY!
125,000 POSTERS TO SINGAPORE! 616,750 TO BUENOS AIRES!
PHINEAS
PHINEAS

...BUT I'M SO BUSY... OH, VERY WELL, BUT THESE ARE MY CONDITIONS, COLONEL... OKAY, I'LL BE THERE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE...
(SOUNDS LIKE HE'S BEING CALLED AWAY!)
(GOOD!)
ANOTHER CEREMONIAL HONOR... THEY'RE APPOINTING ME TO A POSITION IN THE GOVERNMENT. MY TITLE WILL BE "EMPEROR OF EARTH."
(SIGH) WHAT DOES THE TITLE OF EMPEROR MEAN TO ME? I'M ALREADY THE RICHEST MAN ON EARTH AND HEAD OF THE CHURCH OF FUNDALIGIONISM.
...BUT THE CORONATION IS TO BE ONE MONTH FROM TODAY. I'M TRANSFERRING YOU TO MY PERSONAL STAFF TO BE IN CHARGE OF ARRANGING THE CEREMONY. THEY'VE ALREADY CHOSEN THE SITE. IT'S ON THE NORTH SHORE OF LOCH NESS IN SCOTLAND.
LET'S SEE... WE'LL NEED A TWO HUNDRED FOOT HIGH MAIN GRANDSTAND FACING THE LAKE... A LARGE REVIEWING STAND AND LECTURN... THEATRICAL LIGHTING... AN IMMENSELY POWERFUL PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM... A LARGE STONE STATUE OF ME...
YOU, FRANKLIN, WILL BE DRESSED IN THE CEREMONIAL YELLOW AND GREEN POLKA-DOT VELOUR ROBES OF THE SACRED PERSONAL ASSISTANTS OF FATHER PHINEAS, AND YOU, FREDDY, WILL BE WEARING THE VENERATED PINK SILK SKIRTS OF THE ZOUAVES OF FUNDALIGIONISM.
THAT NIGHT WHILE PHINEAS IS DOING HIS REGULAR FOUR-HOUR SHOW, FRANKLIN AND FREDDY ESCAPE.
WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO BREAK UP THIS LITTLE PARTY!
I'VE LEARNED HOW TO ENDURE JUST ABOUT ANYTHING, BUT PHINEAS EMPEROR OF EARTH IS JUST TOO MUCH!

OUTSIDE PHINEAS' STRONGLY-PROTECTED CHATEAU, DISASTER STRIKES IMMEDIATELY.
THAT FERRARI DIDN'T LAST VERY LONG, DID IT?
I HAD A CADILLAC ONCE THAT WAS A LOT BETTER!
UH-OH! TRUCKS! HEAD FOR THE ROCKS!

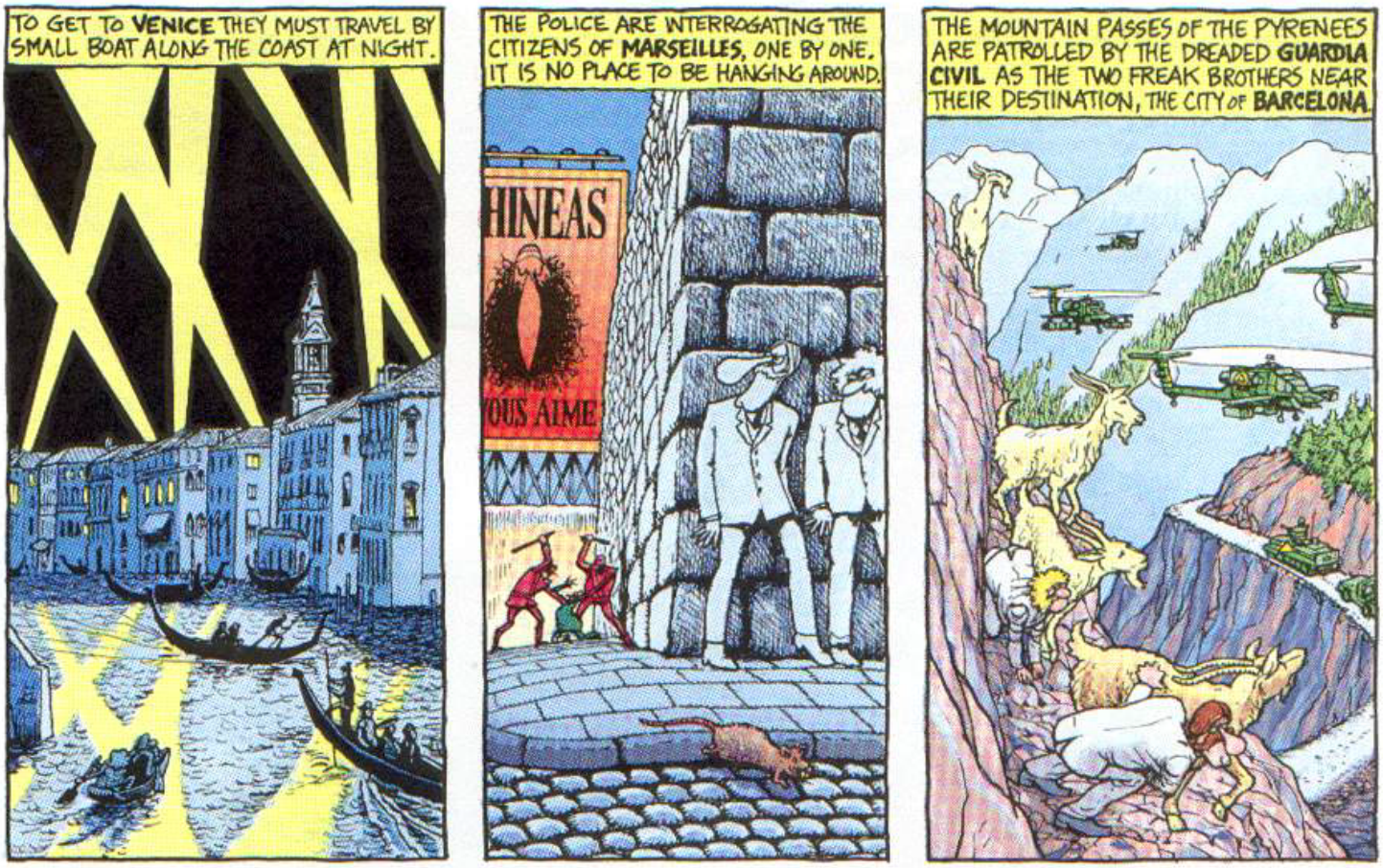

TRAVELING ON FOOT AT NIGHT, FRANKLIN AND FREDDY REACH CAIRO IN A WEEK. IN ORDER TO OBTAIN WATER THEY BRIBE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.
أديني ماي
ازا مش عوزني أكسر راسك

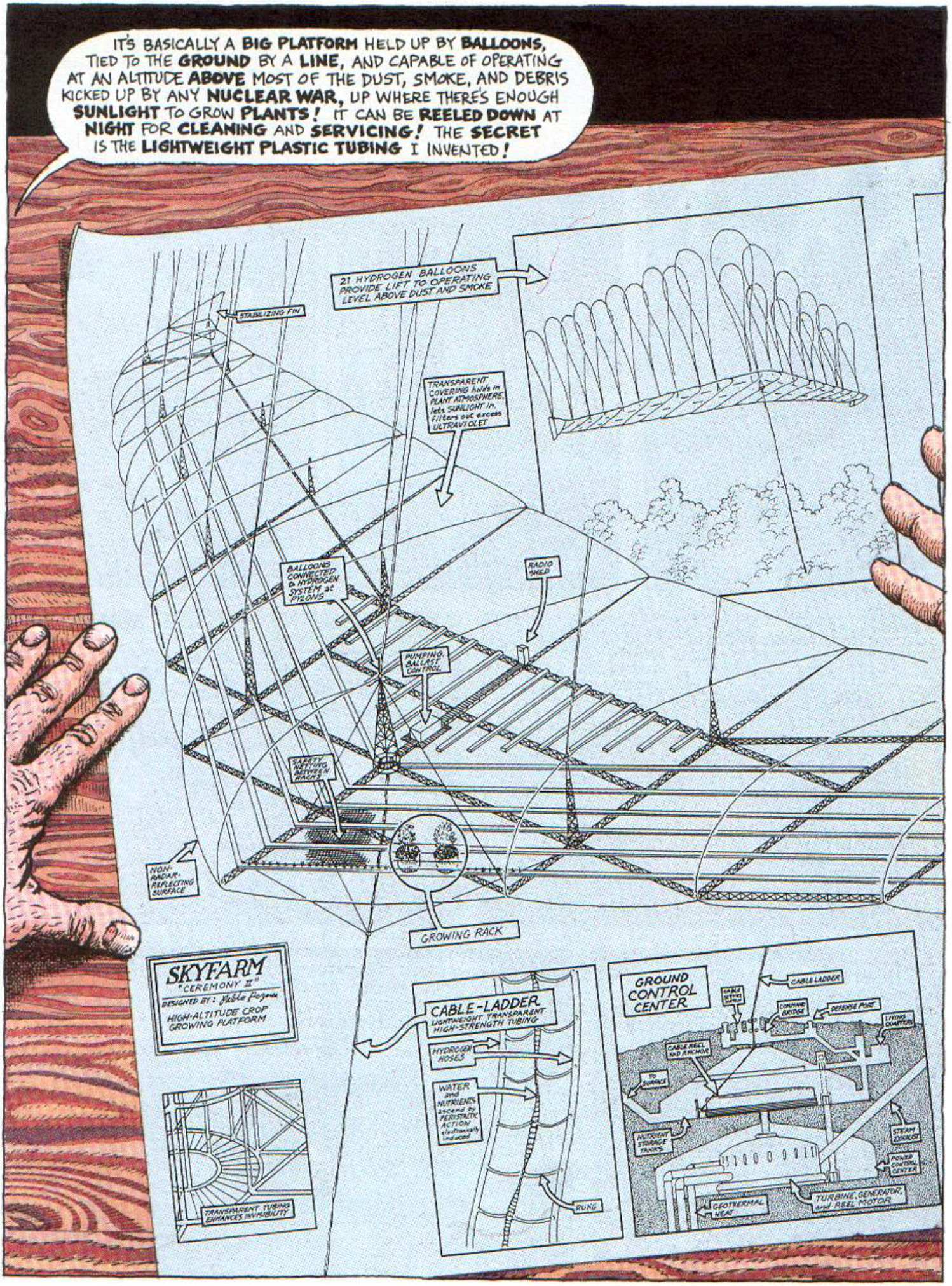
IN TEL AVIV, THERE ARE FOOD RIOTS AND ENORMOUS SWARMS OF REFUGEES. HERE THEY SEE THEIR FIRST OF MANY FUNDALGIONIST PILGRIMS ON THEIR WAY TO THE CORONATION.
HALLELUJAHGOBBLE HALLELUJAHGOBBLE HALLELUJAHGOBBLE HALLELUJAHGOBBLE HALLELUJAHGOBBLE HALLELUJAHGOBBLE
ER, UH... HALLELUJAHGOBBLE, BROTHERS AND SISTERS!

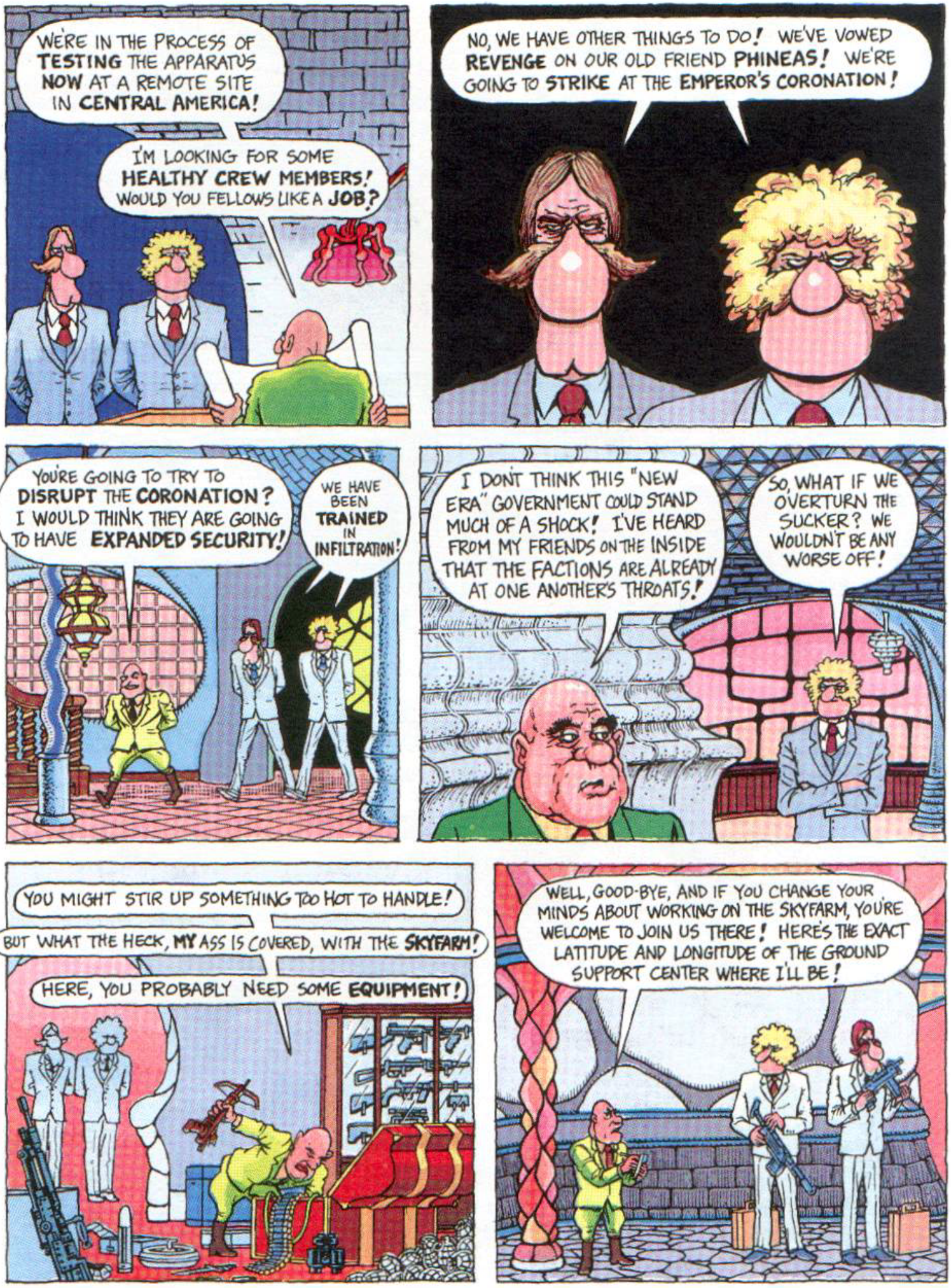
A FOURTEEN-SIDED CIVIL WAR STILL RAGES IN BEIRUT, NEW ERA OR NOT.

IN ISTANBUL THEY STUMBLE ACROSS THE CORRIDOR OF THE SLAVE TRAINS CARRYING THEIR WRETCHED HUMAN CARGO TO MARKET.
MOAN
WAIL
CRY

THE CLASSIC RUINS OF ATHENS HAVE BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO A TELEVISION STUDIO AND RALLYING POINT FOR FUNDALGIONIST PILGRIMS, WHOSE HORDES NOW CLOG THE HIGHWAYS.
HALLELUJAHGOBBLE
HALLELUJAHGOBBLE
HALLELUJAHGOBBLE
HALLELUJAHGOBBLE
HALLELUJAHGOBBLE
HALLELUJAHGOBBLE


TO GET TO VENICE THEY MUST TRAVEL BY SMALL BOAT ALONG THE COAST AT NIGHT.
THE POLICE ARE INTERROGATING THE CITIZENS OF MARSEILLES, ONE BY ONE. IT IS NO PLACE TO BE HANGING AROUND.
HINEAS
VOUS AIME
THE MOUNTAIN PASSES OF THE PYRENEES ARE PATROLLED BY THE DREADED GUARDIA CIVIL AS THE TWO FREAK BROTHERS NEAR THEIR DESTINATION, THE CITY OF BARCELONA.
IN BARCELONA THEY SEEK OUT PABLO PEGASO.
NEVER MADE IT TO BOGOTA, EH?
WELL, COME IN!
OVER A SUPERBLY-PREPARED MEAL THEY ENJOY LEISURELY CONVERSATION.
THIS IS THE NICEST LAFITE-ROTHSCHILD I'VE HAD IN SOME TIME!
'98 OR '99, I'D GUESS!
YOU SEEM TO BE WELL-INSULATED FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD HERE IN THIS MANSION, MR. PEGASO!
PHOOEY! STONE WALLS A MERE METER, IN THICKNESS WON'T DO ANYBODY ANY GOOD WHEN THE REAL FIGHTING BREAKS OUT!
I'M NOT WORRIED BY A FEW THUGS OUT ON THE STREETS! BUT IF THAT STUPID BUNCH OF FASCISTS IN THE GOVERNMENT KEEPS ON, THERE ARE GOING TO BE NUCLEAR WEAPONS GOING OFF ALL OVER THE DAMN PLACE!
EVERYONE KNOWS THESE RELATIVELY 'PEACEFUL' TIMES AREN'T GOING TO LAST FOREVER! LET ME SHOW YOU MY LATEST INVENTION — A SYSTEM TO MAKE MYSELF ENTIRELY INDEPENDENT OF THE NORMAL FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN!
TAKE A LOOK AT THIS!

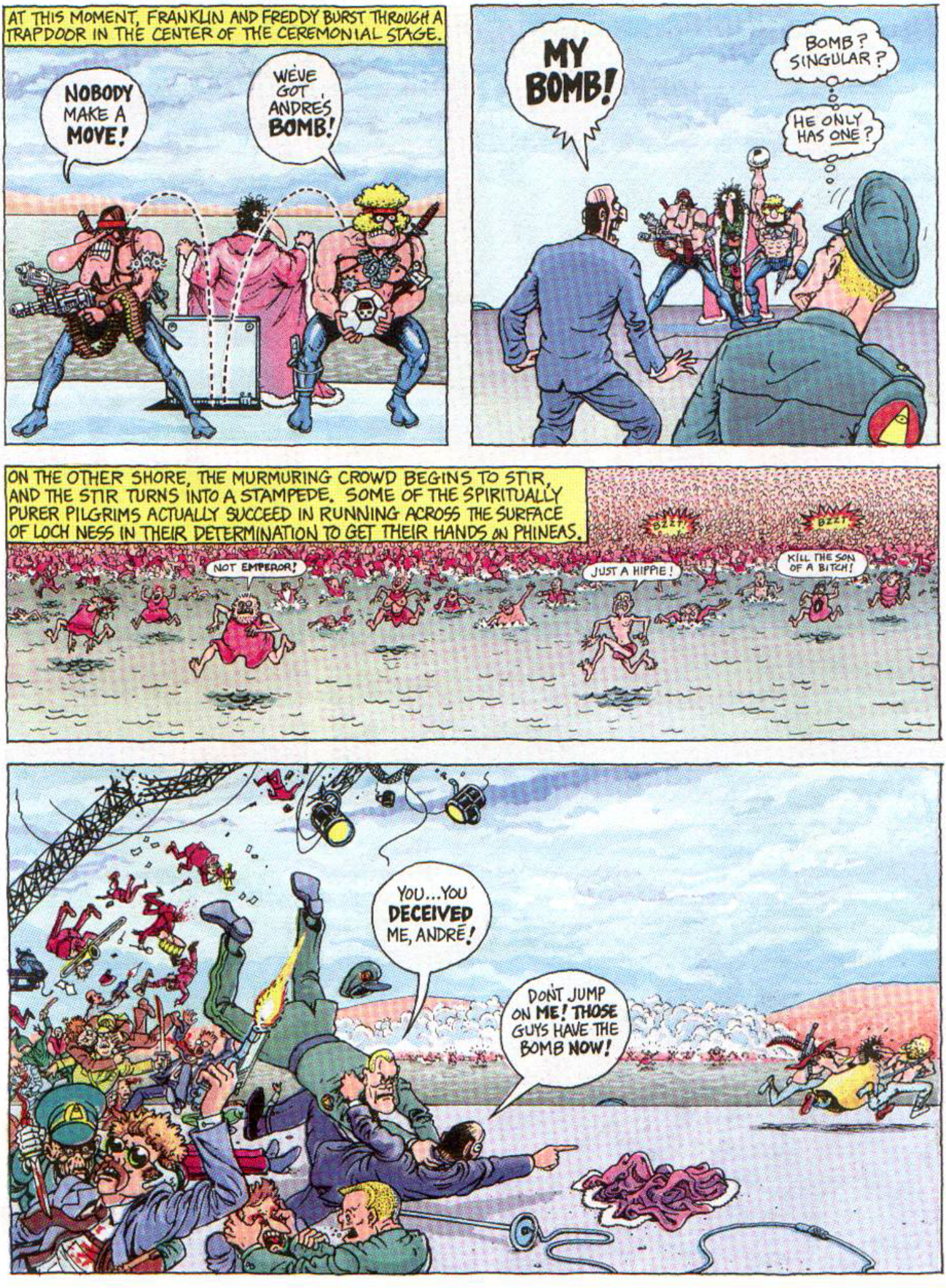

IT'S BASICALLY A BIG PLATFORM HELD UP BY BALLOONS, TIED TO THE GROUND BY A LINE, AND CAPABLE OF OPERATING AT AN ALTITUDE ABOVE MOST OF THE DUST, SMOKE, AND DEBRIS KICKED UP BY ANY NUCLEAR WAR, UP WHERE THERE'S ENOUGH SUNLIGHT TO GROW PLANTS! IT CAN BE REELED DOWN AT NIGHT FOR CLEANING AND SERVICING! THE SECRET IS THE LIGHTWEIGHT PLASTIC TUBING I INVENTED!
21 HYDROGEN BALLOONS PROVIDE LIFT TO OPERATING LEVEL ABOVE DUST AND SMOKE
STABILIZING FIN
TRANSPARENT COVERING holds in PLANT ATMOSPHERE; lets SUNLIGHT in, filters out excess ULTRAVIOLET
BALLOONS CONNECTED to HYDROGEN SYSTEM at PYLONS
RADIO SHED
PUMPING, BALLAST CONTROL
SAFETY NETTING BETWEEN RACKS
NON-RADAR-REFLECTING SURFACE
GROWING RACK
SKYFARM
"CEREMONY II"
DESIGNED BY: Jodie Bogen
HIGH-ALTITUDE CROP GROWING PLATFORM
TRANSPARENT TUBING ENHANCES INVISIBILITY
CABLE-LADDER
LIGHTWEIGHT TRANSPARENT HIGH-STRENGTH TUBING
HYDROGEN HOSES
WATER and NUTRIENTS ascend by PERISTALTIC ACTION electronically induced
RUNG
GROUND CONTROL CENTER
CABLE LADDER
CABLE REEL AND ANCHOR
COMMAND OUTPOST
DEFENSE POINT
LIVING QUARTERS
TO SHIPPING
NUTRIENT STORAGE TANKS
STEAM EXHAUST
POWER CONTROL CENTER
GEOTHERMAL HEAT
TURBINE, GENERATOR, and REEL MOTOR


WE'RE IN THE PROCESS OF TESTING THE APPARATUS NOW AT A REMOTE SITE IN CENTRAL AMERICA!
I'M LOOKING FOR SOME HEALTHY CREW MEMBERS! WOULD YOU FELLOWS LIKE A JOB?
NO, WE HAVE OTHER THINGS TO DO! WE'VE VOWED REVENGE ON OUR OLD FRIEND PHINEAS! WE'RE GOING TO STRIKE AT THE EMPEROR'S CORONATION!
YOU'RE GOING TO TRY TO DISRUPT THE CORONATION? I WOULD THINK THEY ARE GOING TO HAVE EXPANDED SECURITY!
WE HAVE BEEN TRAINED IN INFILTRATION!
I DON'T THINK THIS "NEW ERA" GOVERNMENT COULD STAND MUCH OF A SHOCK! I'VE HEARD FROM MY FRIENDS ON THE INSIDE THAT THE FACTIONS ARE ALREADY AT ONE ANOTHER'S THROATS!
SO, WHAT IF WE OVERTURN THE SUCKER? WE WOULDN'T BE ANY WORSE OFF!
YOU MIGHT STIR UP SOMETHING TOO HOT TO HANDLE!
BUT WHAT THE HECK, MY ASS IS COVERED, WITH THE SKYFARM!
HERE, YOU PROBABLY NEED SOME EQUIPMENT!
WELL, GOOD-BYE, AND IF YOU CHANGE YOUR MINDS ABOUT WORKING ON THE SKYFARM, YOU'RE WELCOME TO JOIN US THERE! HERE'S THE EXACT LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE OF THE GROUND SUPPORT CENTER WHERE I'LL BE!

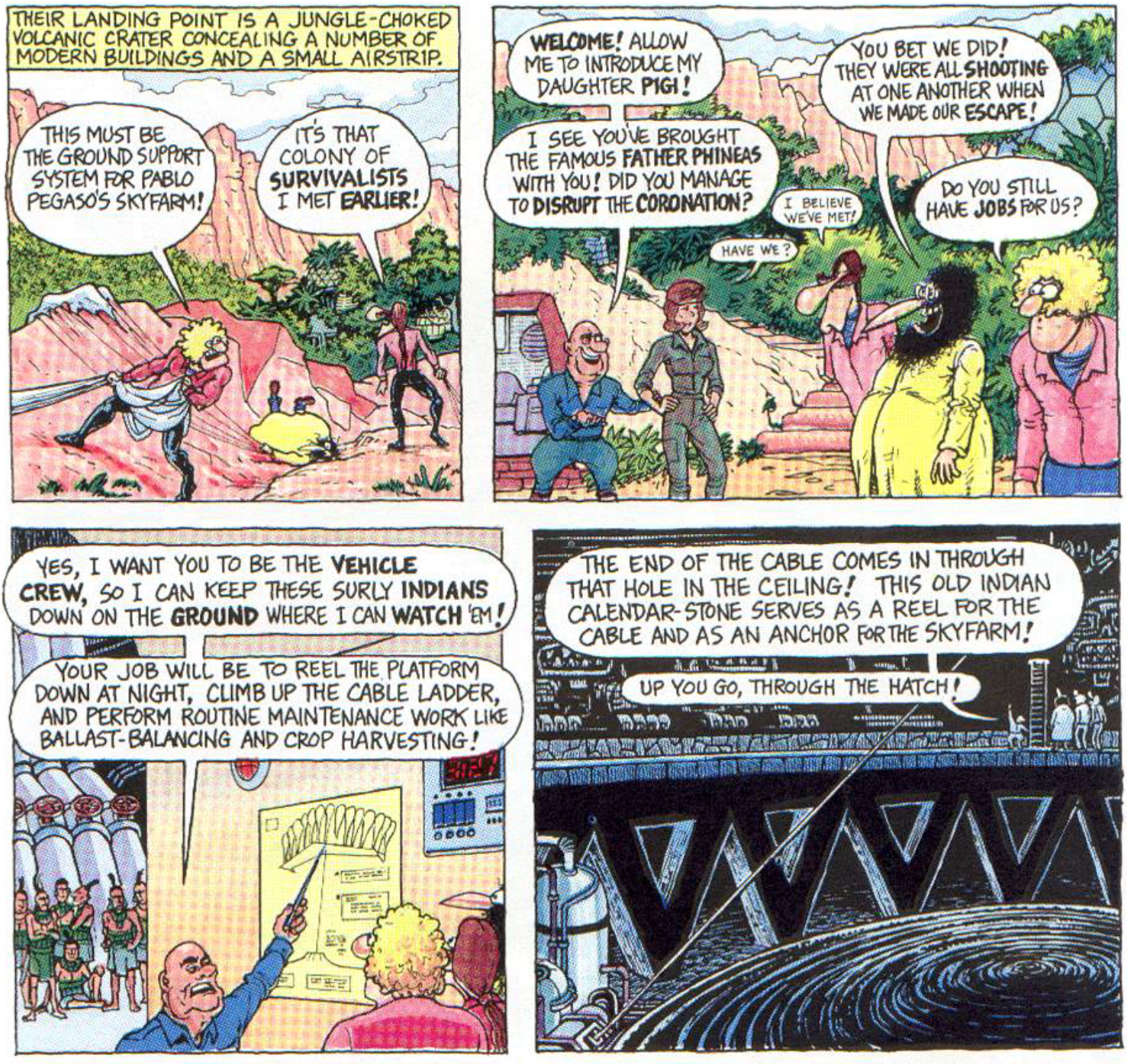
MINGLING WITH THE SWARMS OF FUNDALIGIONIST PILGRIMS, OUR HEROS MAKE THEIR WAY TO LOCH NESS.
GOSH, I'LL BE SO HAPPY TO SEE PHINEAS! HOW ABOUT YOU, BROTHER?
THEY ARRIVE JUST BEFORE DAWN ON THE DAY OF THE CORONATION.
THERE'S THE CEREMONIAL PLATFORM, ACROSS THE LAKE!
THEY'VE BUILT A HUGE ELECTRIC FENCE TO KEEP THE PILGRIMS OVER ON THIS SIDE!
THIS'LL BE NO PROBLEM AT ALL! GIVE ME THE CUTTING TORCH!
DANGER
ACROSS THE LAKE IN THE SECURE AREA, PHINEAS HAS JUST ARRIVED TO DISCUSS THE FINAL DETAILS OF THE CEREMONY, AND HE IS DISCOVERING THAT BEING EMPEROR MIGHT NOT BE EXACTLY LIKE HE HAD ENVISIONED.
WE LET YOU CHOOSE YOUR OWN TITLE, SO YOU'LL BE "EMPEROR," BUT YOU'RE ONLY THE FIGUREHEAD FOR THE NEW ERA! YOU'LL BE EXPECTED TO FOLLOW OUR SUGGESTIONS!
I'LL DO AS I WISH! I'M THE RICHEST MAN IN THE WORLD!
TODAY YOU'RE THE RICHEST, BUT TOMORROW, WHO KNOWS? MY MEN CONTROL THE VALUE OF YOUR CURRENCY!
(IF YOU SIDE AGAINST ME, YOU CAN EXPECT A BULLET IN THE BACK OF YOUR HEAD!)

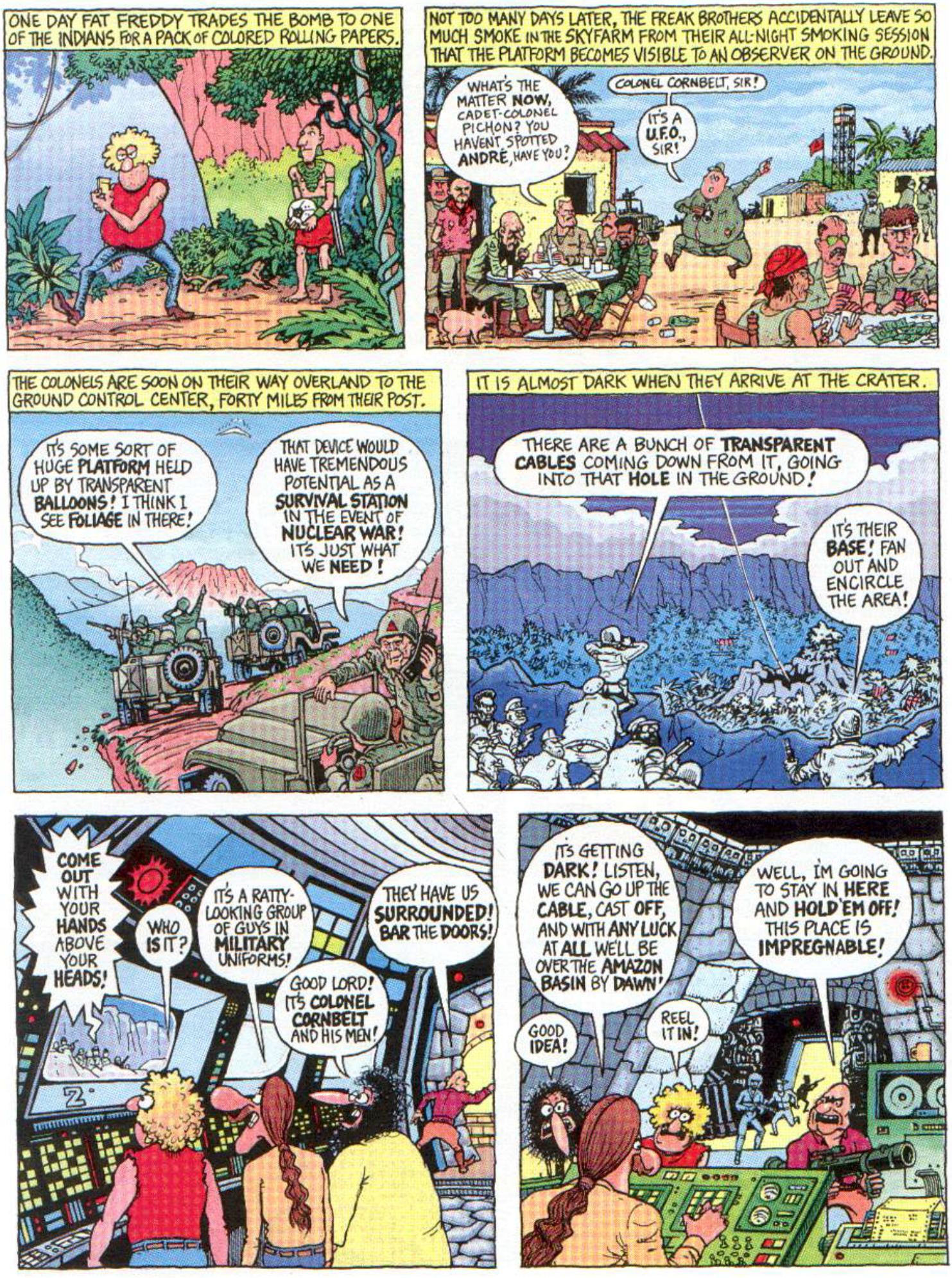
FRANKLIN AND FREDDY CROSS THE LAKE.
HMMM... I KEEP THINKING I'VE SEEN THIS PLACE SOMEWHERE BEFORE!
AYEEEEE! YARRRGH!
(FOR GOD'S SAKE, FREDDY, BE QUIET! WHAT'S THE MATTER?)
(LOCH NESS MONSTER!)
(DOZENS OF 'EM!)
(THEY'RE ONLY ABOUT ONE INCH LONG, BUT THEY'RE ICKY AS HELL.)
(WHAT'S THAT THING?)
(IT'S ANDRÉ'S PORTABLE NUCLEAR BOMB! I HID IT HERE WHEN I WAS RUNNING AWAY FROM HIM, MORE THAN SIX MONTHS AGO!)
IT IS NOON. PHINEAS HAS ASCENDED THE STAGE, FLANKED BY COLONEL CORNBELT AND ANDRÉ THE HYENA. A GIGANTIC MUSICAL FANFARE CLIMAXES AND FADES AWAY.
THEN A VAST SILENCE FALLS.

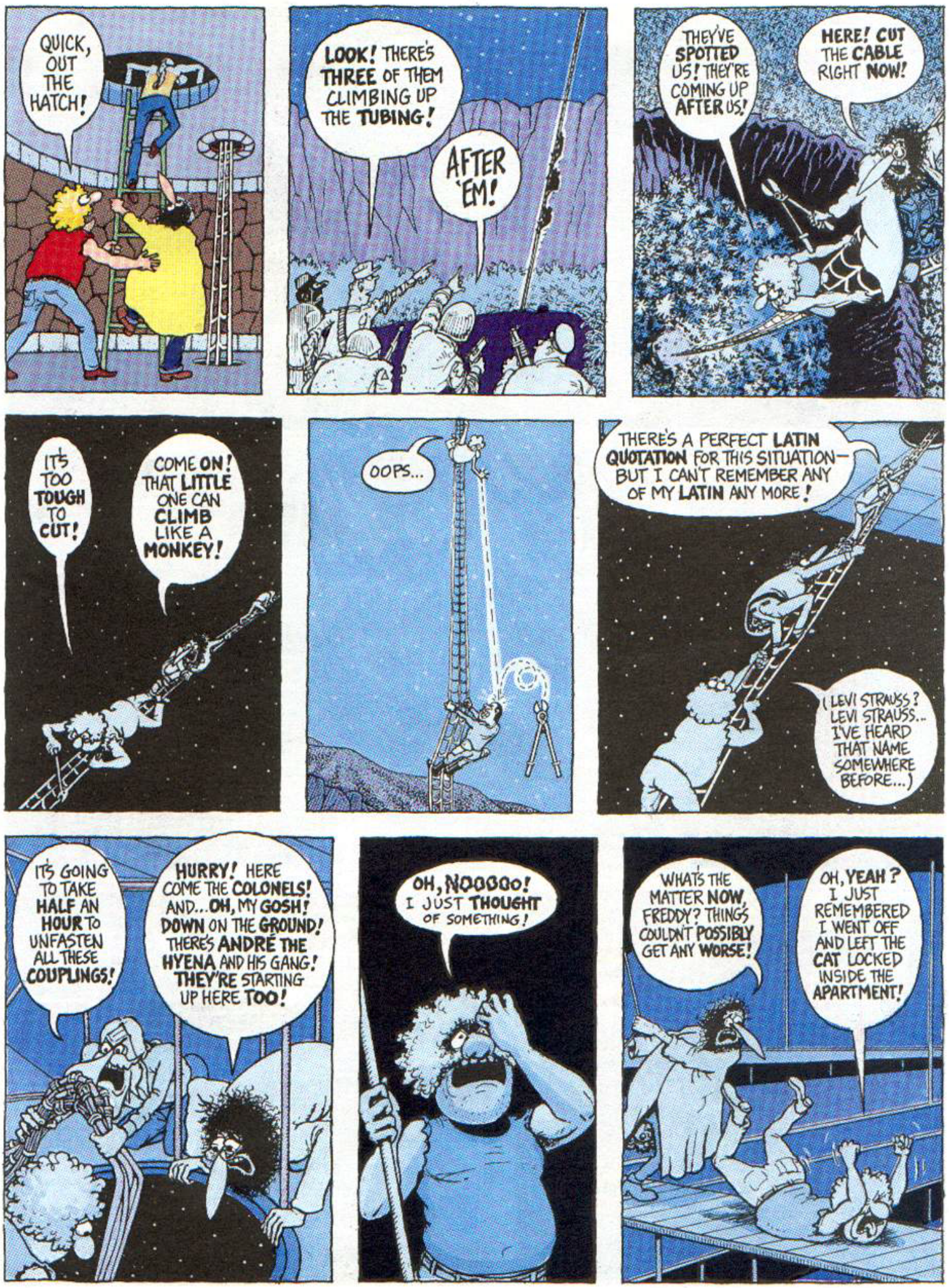
SUDDENLY, BEFORE THE CROWN CAN BE PLACED ON HIS HEAD, PHINEAS GRABS A MIKE.
FRIENDS, FAITHFUL FOLLOWERS OF FUNDALIGIONISM, AND ADHERENTS OF THE NEW ERA WORLD GOVERNMENT... LISTEN TO ME... I WANT TO TELL YOU SOMETHING, EVEN IF IT'S TOO LATE!
HEY, WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
STICK TO THE SCRIPT!
THROUGH THE FIVE-HUNDRED-THOUSAND WATT PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM, HIS VOICE CAN BE HEARD THE LENGTH AND BREADTH OF THE LAKE.
COLONEL CORNBELT AND ANDRÉ LE HYENA HAVE TRIED TO PERSUADE ME TO SUPPORT THEIR NEW ERA COALITION GOVERNMENT, BUT I AM REFUSING THEIR REQUEST!
QUICK! PULL HIS PLUG!
DON'T ORDER ME AROUND! PULL IT YOURSELF!
BENEATH THE GRANDSTAND...
THESE MILITARISTS AND TERRORISTS ARE THE SCUM OF HUMANITY AND THE SCOURGE OF THE EARTH! SOMEONE HAS TO SAY NO TO THEM! THERE'S ONLY ONE TYPE OF PERSON THAT'S MORE DANGEROUS THAN THESE AUTHORITARIAN THUGS...
HEY, NOT BAD!
MAYBE WE WON'T HAVE TO KILL HIM AFTER ALL!
...AND THAT'S A RANTING RELIGIOUS DEMAGOGUE WHO TAKES ADVANTAGE OF THE NATURAL STUPIDITY OF ORDINARY, NICE PEOPLE AND THEIR SUPERSTITIONS IN ORDER TO MAKE A LOT OF MONEY AND FURTHER HIS OWN SELFISH AIMS AND THE AIMS OF A BUNCH OF POWER-HUNGRY FASCISTS AND HIGH-TECH TERRORISTS WHO WANT TO IMPOSE THEIR TOTALITARIAN TYRANNY ON EVERYONE AND HOLD PEOPLE IN SLAVERY EVEN IF IT IS FOR THE SLAVE'S OWN BENEFIT!
MY WILL WAS DOMINATED BY GREED, BUT NOW I'M THE POOREST PERSON ON EARTH BECAUSE I'VE LOST MY TWO BEST FRIENDS! I DON'T EVEN LIKE MONEY! I'M JUST A POOR OLD HIPPIE!
LET THIS BE A LESSON IN HUMILITY, TO US ALL!
ON THE FAR BANK THE MULTITUDES STAND AGAPE AT THEIR VIDEO MONITORS.

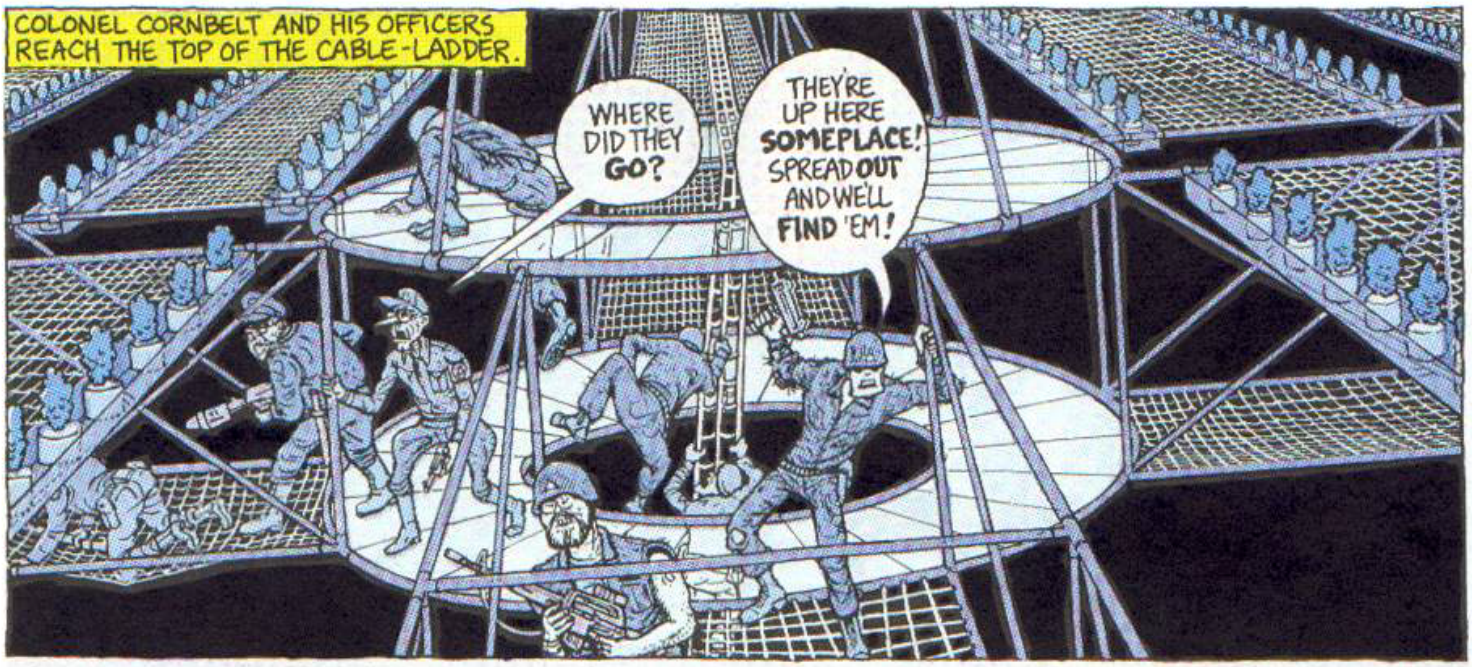

AT THIS MOMENT, FRANKLIN AND FREDDY BURST THROUGH A TRAPDOOR IN THE CENTER OF THE CEREMONIAL STAGE.
NOBODY MAKE A MOVE!
WE'VE GOT ANDRES BOMB!
MY BOMB!
BOMB? SINGULAR?
HE ONLY HAS ONE?
ON THE OTHER SHORE, THE MURMURING CROWD BEGINS TO STIR, AND THE STIR TURNS INTO A STAMPEDE. SOME OF THE SPIRITUALLY PURER PILGRIMS ACTUALLY SUCCEED IN RUNNING ACROSS THE SURFACE OF LOCH NESS IN THEIR DETERMINATION TO GET THEIR HANDS ON PHINEAS.
BZZT
BZZT
NOT EMPEROR!
JUST A HIPPIE!
KILL THE SON OF A BITCH!
YOU...YOU DECEIVED ME, ANDRÉ!
DON'T JUMP ON ME! THOSE GUYS HAVE THE BOMB NOW!

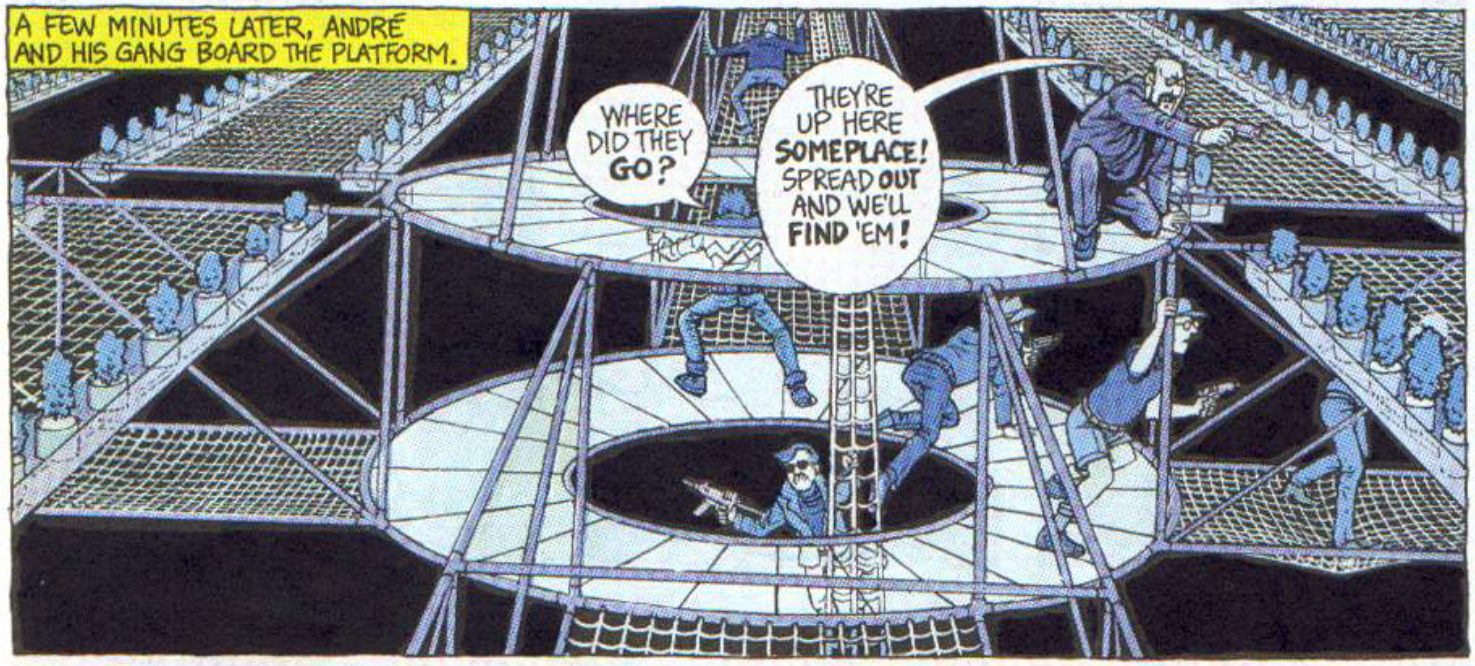
COLONEL CORNBELT'S DREAM OF AN ETERNAL WORLD ORDER DISAPPEARS UNDER THE WHISPERING THUNDER OF THREE AND A HALF MILLION PAIRS OF BARE FANATIC PILGRIM FEET.
AIIIEEE!
IN THE CONFUSION, THE FREAK BROTHERS MAKE IT TO PHINEA'S PRIVATE AIRPLANE.
THEY TAKE OFF IN A HAIL OF FIRE!
RADAR INDICATES NO PURSUIT.
AIRSPEED FIFTEEN SEVEN SIX FOUR NINER.
YOU GUYS WANT TO GET HIGH? TRY SOME OF MY IMPERIAL STASH!
A FEW HOURS LATER...
WE'RE OVER THE CO-ORDINATES NOW, I THINK, IF I REMEMBER HOW TO USE THIS STUPID COMPUTER CORRECTLY!
FOR SOME REASON I CAN'T RECALL HOW TO LAND THIS PARTICULAR TYPE OF AIRCRAFT! WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO BAIL OUT!
IT'LL PROBABLY CRASH HARMLESSLY OUT IN THE PACIFIC SOMEWHERE!


THEIR LANDING POINT IS A JUNGLE-CHOKED VOLCANIC CRATER CONCEALING A NUMBER OF MODERN BUILDINGS AND A SMALL AIRSTRIP.
THIS MUST BE THE GROUND SUPPORT SYSTEM FOR PABLO PEGASO'S SKYFARM!
IT'S THAT COLONY OF SURVIVALISTS I MET EARLIER!
WELCOME! ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MY DAUGHTER PIGI!
I SEE YOU'VE BROUGHT THE FAMOUS FATHER PHINEAS WITH YOU! DID YOU MANAGE TO DISRUPT THE CORONATION?
I BELIEVE WE'VE MET!
HAVE WE?
YOU BET WE DID! THEY WERE ALL SHOOTING AT ONE ANOTHER WHEN WE MADE OUR ESCAPE!
DO YOU STILL HAVE JOBS FOR US?
YES, I WANT YOU TO BE THE VEHICLE CREW, SO I CAN KEEP THESE SURLY INDIANS DOWN ON THE GROUND WHERE I CAN WATCH 'EM!
YOUR JOB WILL BE TO REEL THE PLATFORM DOWN AT NIGHT, CLIMB UP THE CABLE LADDER, AND PERFORM ROUTINE MAINTENANCE WORK LIKE BALLAST-BALANCING AND CROP HARVESTING!
THE END OF THE CABLE COMES IN THROUGH THAT HOLE IN THE CEILING! THIS OLD INDIAN CALENDAR-STONE SERVES AS A REEL FOR THE CABLE AND AS AN ANCHOR FOR THE SKYFARM!
UP YOU GO, THROUGH THE HATCH!
THE FREAK BROTHERS ADAPT QUICKLY TO THIS AGRICULTURAL MODE OF LIFE.
BEFORE MANY DAYS, THEY HAVE PLANTED MARIJUANA BETWEEN THE ROWS OF CORN.
THEY ARE SOON SPENDING ALL THEIR NIGHT HOURS ALOFT, SMOKING UP THEIR CROPS.


ONE DAY FAT FREDDY TRADES THE BOMB TO ONE OF THE INDIANS FOR A PACK OF COLORED ROLLING PAPERS.
NOT TOO MANY DAYS LATER, THE FREAK BROTHERS ACCIDENTALLY LEAVE SO MUCH SMOKE IN THE SKYFARM FROM THEIR ALL-NIGHT SMOKING SESSION THAT THE PLATFORM BECOMES VISIBLE TO AN OBSERVER ON THE GROUND.
WHAT'S THE MATTER NOW, CADET-COLONEL PICHON? YOU HAVENT SPOTTED ANDRÉ, HAVE YOU?
COLONEL CORNBELT, SIR!
IT'S A U.F.O., SIR!
THE COLONELS ARE SOON ON THEIR WAY OVERLAND TO THE GROUND CONTROL CENTER, FORTY MILES FROM THEIR POST.
IT'S SOME SORT OF HUGE PLATFORM HELD UP BY TRANSPARENT BALLOONS! I THINK I SEE FOLIAGE IN THERE!
THAT DEVICE WOULD HAVE TREMENDOUS POTENTIAL AS A SURVIVAL STATION IN THE EVENT OF NUCLEAR WAR! IT'S JUST WHAT WE NEED!
IT IS ALMOST DARK WHEN THEY ARRIVE AT THE CRATER.
THERE ARE A BUNCH OF TRANSPARENT CABLES COMING DOWN FROM IT, GOING INTO THAT HOLE IN THE GROUND!
IT'S THEIR BASE! FAN OUT AND ENCIRCLE THE AREA!
COME OUT WITH YOUR HANDS ABOVE YOUR HEADS!
WHO IS IT?
IT'S A RATTY-LOOKING GROUP OF GUYS IN MILITARY UNIFORMS!
GOOD LORD! IT'S COLONEL CORNBELT AND HIS MEN!
THEY HAVE US SURROUNDED! BAR THE DOORS!
IT'S GETTING DARK! LISTEN, WE CAN GO UP THE CABLE, CAST OFF, AND WITH ANY LUCK AT ALL WE'LL BE OVER THE AMAZON BASIN BY DAWN!
GOOD IDEA!
REEL IT IN!
WELL, I'M GOING TO STAY IN HERE AND HOLD 'EM OFF! THIS PLACE IS IMPREGNABLE!


QUICK, OUT THE HATCH!
LOOK! THERE'S THREE OF THEM CLIMBING UP THE TUBING!
AFTER 'EM!
THEY'VE SPOTTED US! THEY'RE COMING UP AFTER US!
HERE! CUT THE CABLE RIGHT NOW!
IT'S TOO TOUGH TO CUT!
COME ON! THAT LITTLE ONE CAN CLIMB LIKE A MONKEY!
OOPS...
THERE'S A PERFECT LATIN QUOTATION FOR THIS SITUATION— BUT I CAN'T REMEMBER ANY OF MY LATIN ANY MORE!
(LEVI STRAUSS? LEVI STRAUSS.. I'VE HEARD THAT NAME SOMEWHERE BEFORE...)
IT'S GOING TO TAKE HALF AN HOUR TO UNFASTEN ALL THESE COUPLINGS!
HURRY! HERE COME THE COLONELS! AND...OH, MY GOSH! DOWN ON THE GROUND! THERE'S ANDRÉ THE HYENA AND HIS GANG! THEY'RE STARTING UP HERE TOO!
OH, NOOOOO! I JUST THOUGHT OF SOMETHING!
WHAT'S THE MATTER NOW, FREDDY? THINGS COULDN'T POSSIBLY GET ANY WORSE!
OH, YEAH? I JUST REMEMBERED I WENT OFF AND LEFT THE CAT LOCKED INSIDE THE APARTMENT!

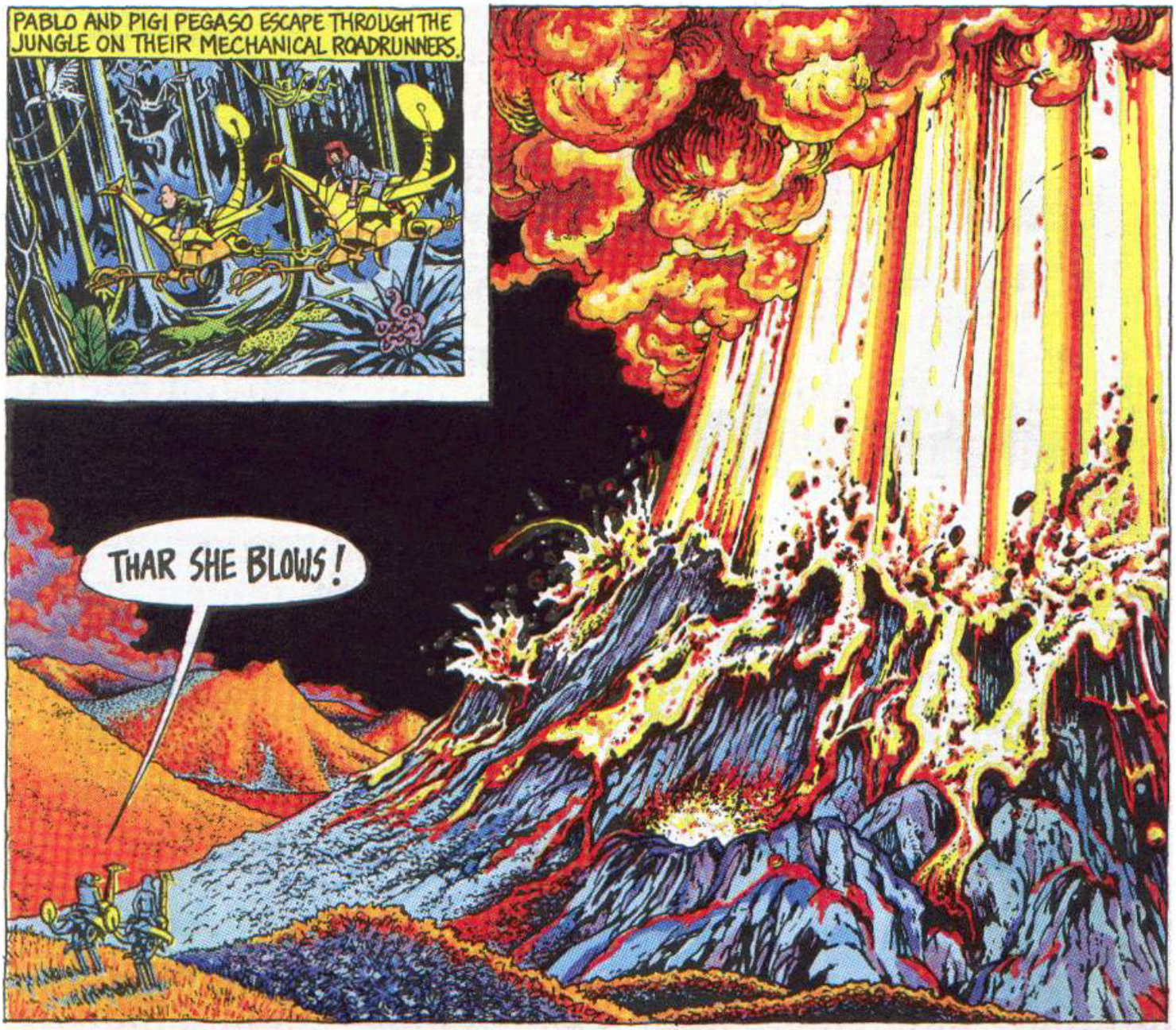

COLONEL CORNBELT AND HIS OFFICERS REACH THE TOP OF THE CABLE-LADDER.
WHERE DID THEY GO?
THEY'RE UP HERE SOMEPLACE! SPREAD OUT AND WE'LL FIND 'EM!


A FEW MINUTES LATER, ANDRÉ AND HIS GANG BOARD THE PLATFORM.
WHERE DID THEY GO?
THEY'RE UP HERE SOMEPLACE! SPREAD OUT AND WE'LL FIND 'EM!

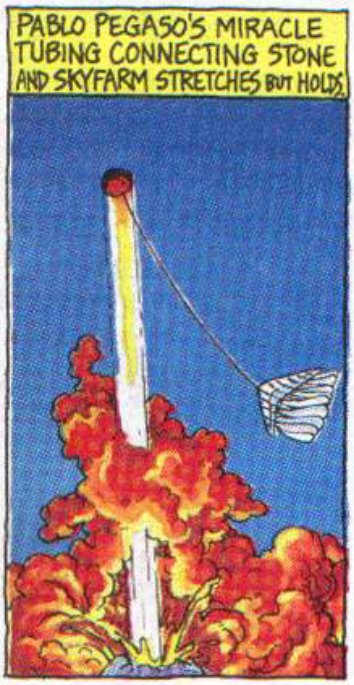
FROM TIME TO TIME A SHOT RINGS OUT IN THE DARKNESS.
¡PAN!
BAM!
BLOFF!
ΧΛΟΠΑΤΑ!

POW!
I'M NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO GET THESE HOSES LOOSE!
QUICK, WE GOTTA HIDE!

THERE'S NO PLACE TO HIDE EXCEPT THE RADIO SHED!
SMILIN' MYLAN!!? HOW DID YOU GET UP HERE?
THIS COMPUTOON 8000© "B" KNOWS! GO ON, ASK IT!
WE'VE FORGOTTEN HOW TO WORK ONE!
MEANWHILE, BACK ON THE GROUND, SOME INDIANS ARE SITTING AROUND THEIR JUNGLE CAMPFIRE...
WE SET OFF BOMB, WE GET RID OF ELITIST EXPLOITERS, ALL IN ONE SWELL FOOP!
WE DROP BOMB DOWN VENT TUBE, IT EXPLODES DOWN HERE!
PROGRAM DETONATING PARAMETERS AT [ ]!
YES, MY KING!
IN THE GROUND CONTROL CENTER...
WE CAN HOLD OUT HERE FOR AS LONG AS WE WANT AGAINST THAT BUNCH OF WIMPS! AND EVENTUALLY I'M GOING TO GET A CLEAR SHOT AT MY OLD BUDDY COLONEL KAKOV!
HEY! YOU NEVER TOLD ME THIS WAS A LIVE VOLCANO!
WHAT WAS THAT?! UH-OH, THE VOLCANO IS ABOUT TO ERUPT!
RUMBLE

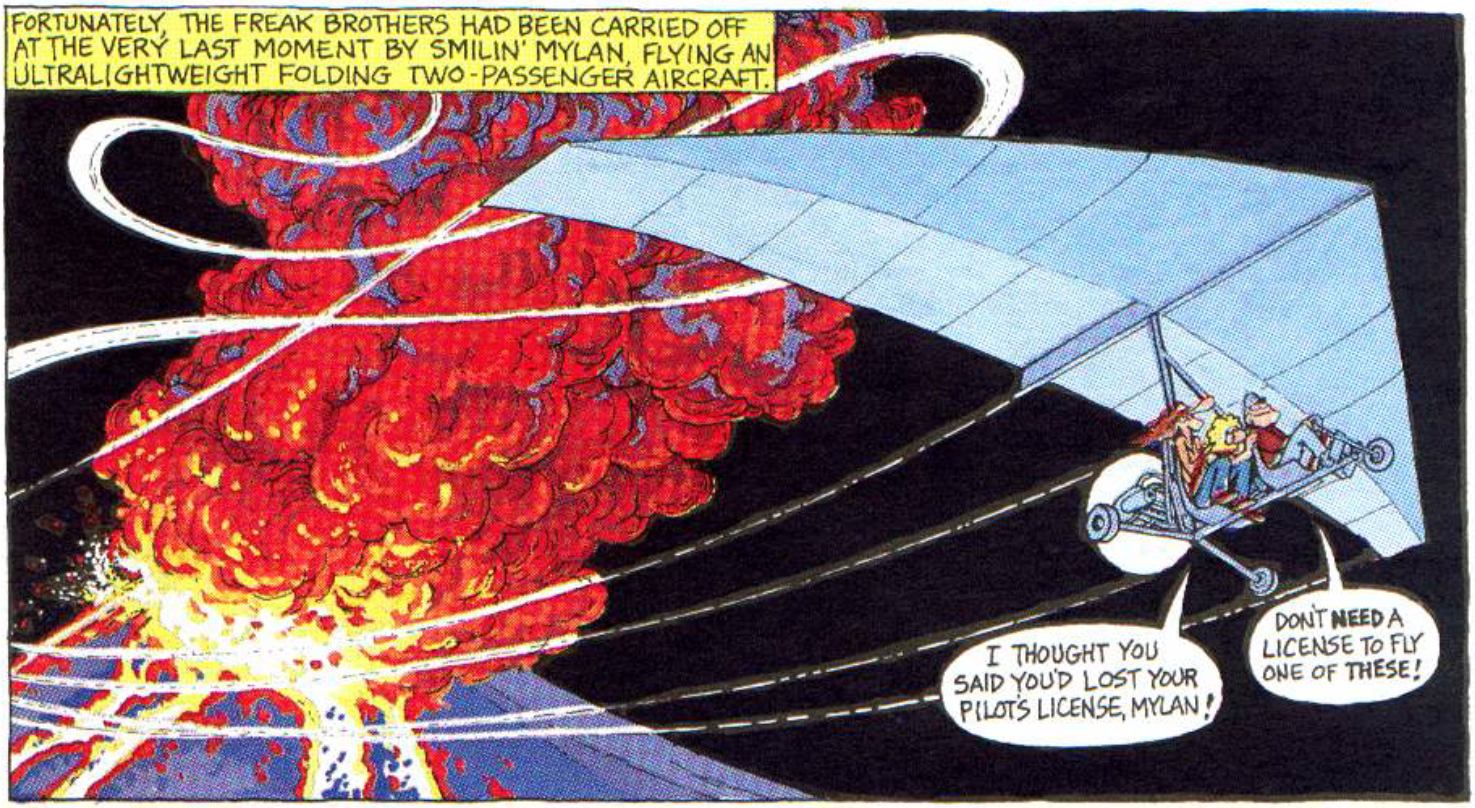

PABLO AND PIGI PEGASO ESCAPE THROUGH THE JUNGLE ON THEIR MECHANICAL ROADRUNNERS.
THAR SHE BLOWS!

THE HEAVY CIRCULAR STONE IS SHOT OUT OF THE CRATER AT A TREMENDOUS VELOCITY.
POIT!

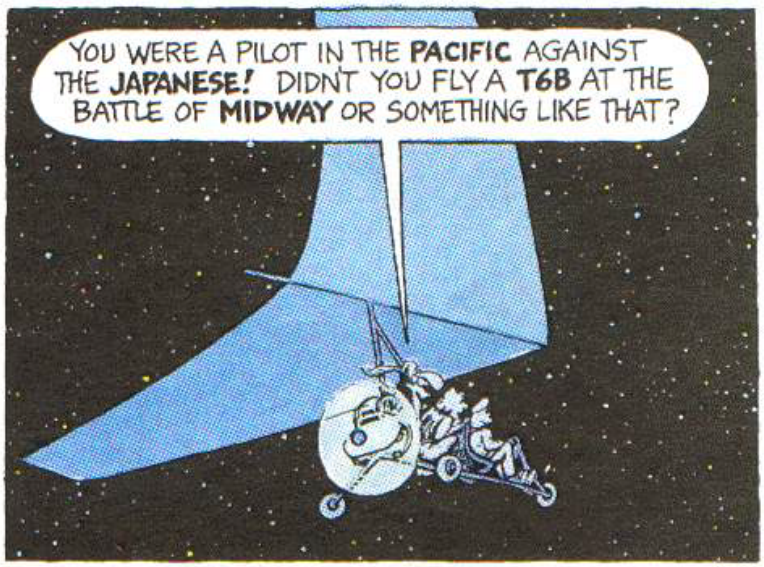

PABLO PEGASO'S MIRACLE TUBING CONNECTING STONE AND SKYFARM STRETCHES BUT HOLDS.

THE SKYFARM IS PULLED UPWARD SLOWLY AT FIRST BECAUSE OF THE ANGLE AND STRETCH OF THE CABLE...

...THEN RAPIDLY, TO DISAPPEAR FOREVER INTO THE VAST REACHES OF OUTER SPACE, CARRYING ALL OF THE BAD GUYS WITH IT. *
BYE-BYE, COLONEL KAKOV!
*WITH THE EXCEPTION OF CADET-COLONEL PICHON, WHO WAS TOO STOUT TO ATTEMPT TO CLIMB THE LADDER IN THE FIRST PLACE, AND WHO SURVIVED TO BECOME DICTATOR-FOR-LIFE OF ALL OF CENTRAL AMERICA, BUT THAT IS ANOTHER STORY.

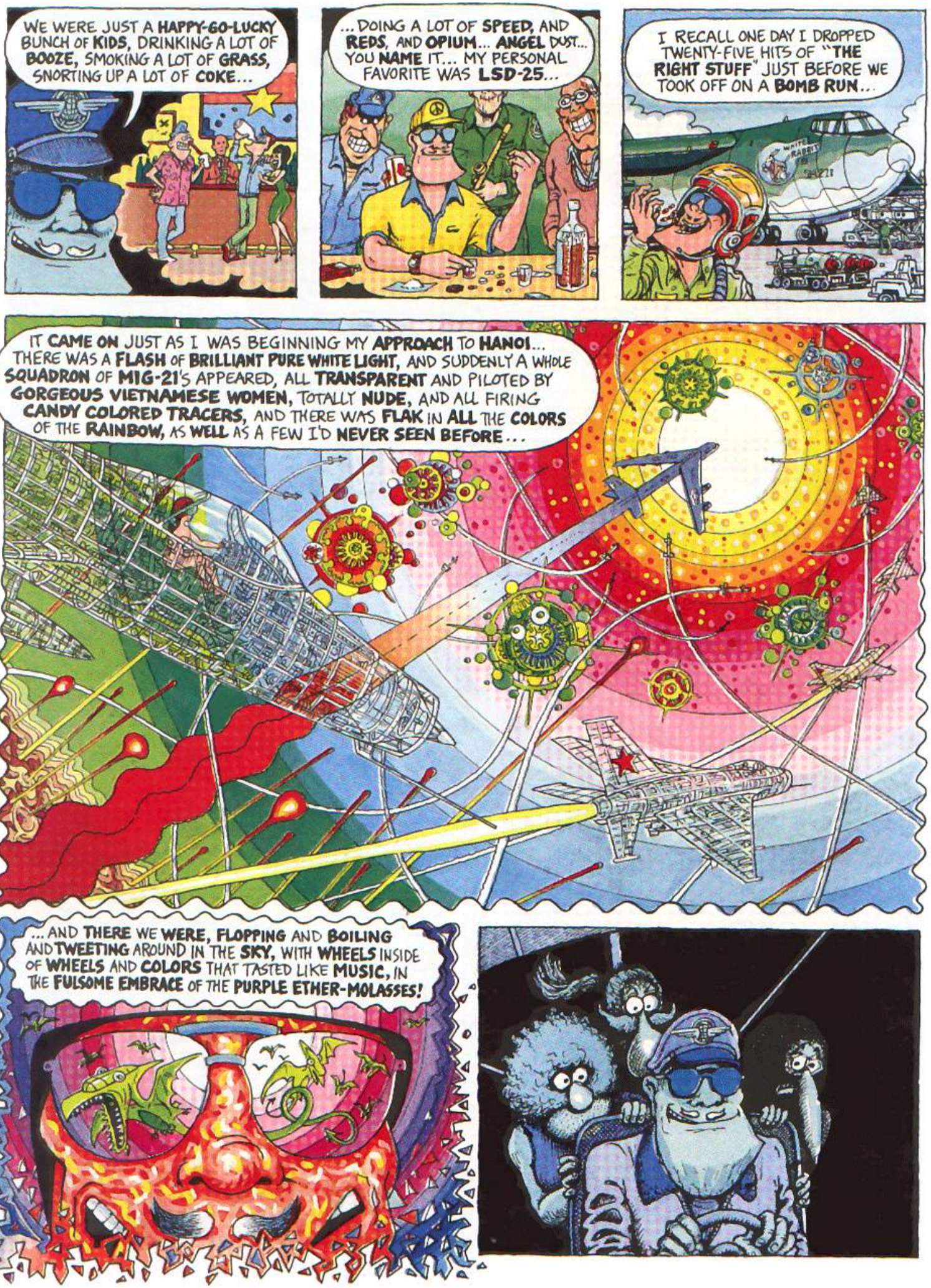

FORTUNATELY, THE FREAK BROTHERS HAD BEEN CARRIED OFF AT THE VERY LAST MOMENT BY SMILIN' MYLAN, FLYING AN ULTRALIGHTWEIGHT FOLDING TWO-PASSENGER AIRCRAFT.
I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU'D LOST YOUR PILOT'S LICENSE, MYLAN!
DON'T NEED A LICENSE TO FLY ONE OF THESE!

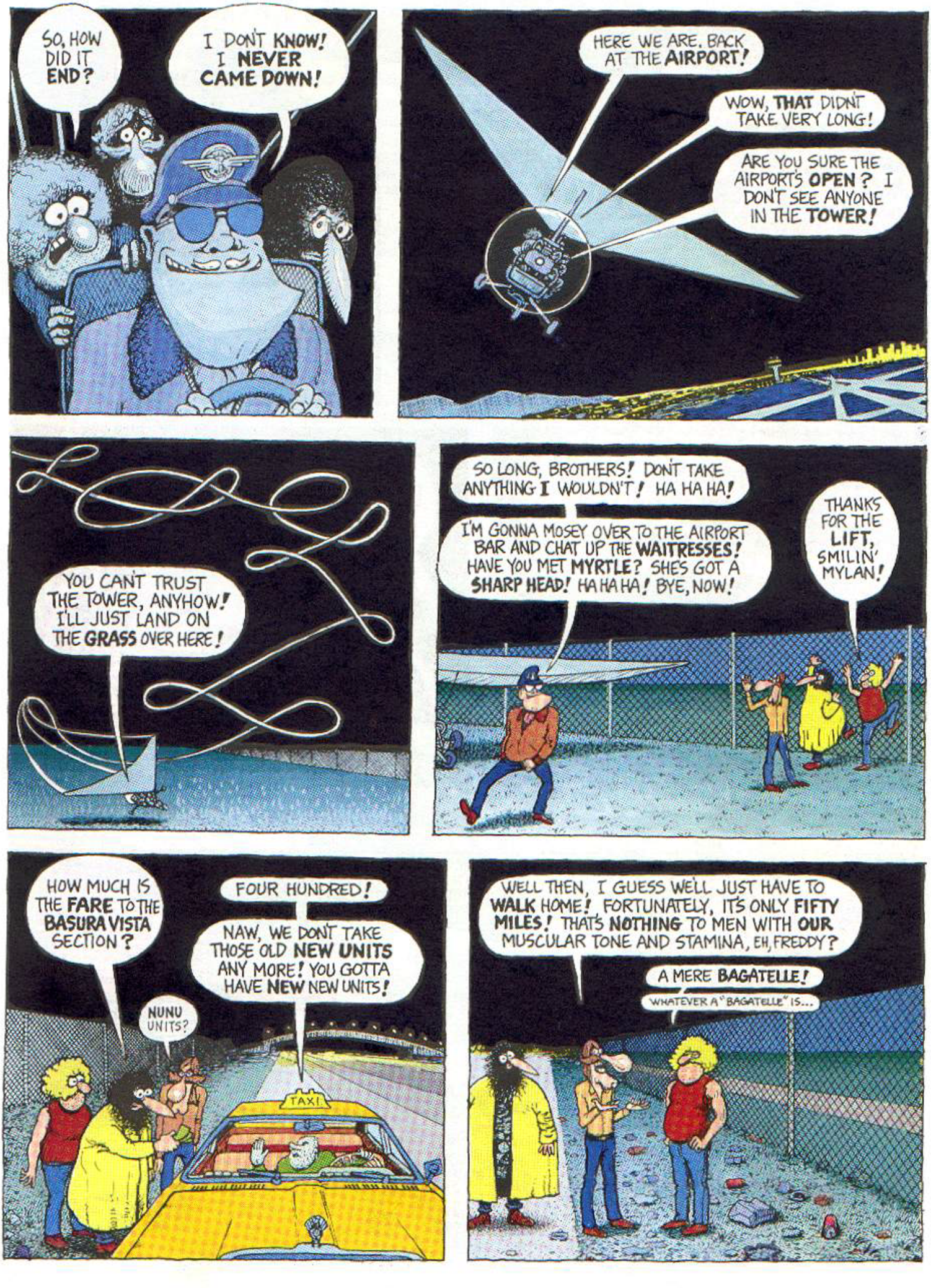
YEAH! SMILIN' MYLAN! I REMEMBER YOU! I USED TO READ ABOUT YOUR ADVENTURES IN THE FUNNY PAPERS WHEN I WAS A LITTLE BOY!


YOU WERE A PILOT IN THE PACIFIC AGAINST THE JAPANESE! DIDN'T YOU FLY A T6B AT THE BATTLE OF MIDWAY OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT?

NAW, THAT'S MY GRANDAD YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT—SMILIN' MYLAN I! HE FOUGHT IN WORLD WAR TWO! MY DAD, SMILIN' MYLAN II, FLEW IN KOREA! I'M SMILIN' MYLAN 3d! AND MY GIG WAS FLYING B-52's IN 'NAM!

YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT! VIET NAM! I'M NOT AS OLD AS I LOOK! THAT WAR TOOK A LOT OUT OF ALL OF US!


WE WERE JUST A HAPPY-GO-LUCKY BUNCH OF KIDS, DRINKING A LOT OF BOOZE, SMOKING A LOT OF GRASS, SNORTING UP A LOT OF COKE...
...DOING A LOT OF SPEED, AND REDS, AND OPIUM... ANGEL DUST... YOU NAME IT... MY PERSONAL FAVORITE WAS LSD-25...
I RECALL ONE DAY I DROPPED TWENTY-FIVE HITS OF "THE RIGHT STUFF" JUST BEFORE WE TOOK OFF ON A BOMB RUN...
IT CAME ON JUST AS I WAS BEGINNING MY APPROACH TO HANOI... THERE WAS A FLASH OF BRILLIANT PURE WHITE LIGHT, AND SUDDENLY A WHOLE SQUADRON OF MIG-21'S APPEARED, ALL TRANSPARENT AND PILOTED BY GORGEOUS VIETNAMESE WOMEN, TOTALLY NUDE, AND ALL FIRING CANDY COLORED TRACERS, AND THERE WAS FLAK IN ALL THE COLORS OF THE RAINBOW, AS WELL AS A FEW I'D NEVER SEEN BEFORE...
...AND THERE WE WERE, FLOPPING AND BOILING AND TWEETING AROUND IN THE SKY, WITH WHEELS INSIDE OF WHEELS AND COLORS THAT TASTED LIKE MUSIC, IN THE FULSOME EMBRACE OF THE PURPLE ETHER-MOLASSES!


SO, HOW DID IT END?
I DON'T KNOW! I NEVER CAME DOWN!
HERE WE ARE, BACK AT THE AIRPORT!
WOW, THAT DIDN'T TAKE VERY LONG!
ARE YOU SURE THE AIRPORT'S OPEN? I DON'T SEE ANYONE IN THE TOWER!
YOU CAN'T TRUST THE TOWER, ANYHOW! I'LL JUST LAND ON THE GRASS OVER HERE!
SO LONG, BROTHERS! DON'T TAKE ANYTHING I WOULDN'T! HA HA HA!
I'M GONNA MOSEY OVER TO THE AIRPORT BAR AND CHAT UP THE WAITRESSES! HAVE YOU MET MYRTLE? SHES GOT A SHARP HEAD! HA HA HA! BYE, NOW!
THANKS FOR THE LIFT, SMILIN' MYLAN!
HOW MUCH IS THE FARE TO THE BASURA VISTA SECTION?
FOUR HUNDRED!
NAW, WE DON'T TAKE THOSE OLD NEW UNITS ANY MORE! YOU GOTTA HAVE NEW NEW UNITS!
NUNU UNITS?
TAXI
WELL THEN, I GUESS WE'LL JUST HAVE TO WALK HOME! FORTUNATELY, IT'S ONLY FIFTY MILES! THAT'S NOTHING TO MEN WITH OUR MUSCULAR TONE AND STAMINA, EH, FREDDY?
A MERE BAGATELLE!
WHATEVER A "BAGATELLE" IS...

HOME AT LAST! IT LOOKS PRETTY MUCH THE SAME! THEY'VE ALREADY RESTORED THE CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT!
I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED TO TWEEDLEDUM?
LOOKS LIKE WE HAVE A NEW PRESIDENT!
NEW PREZ TWEEDLEDEE
STEVIE'S HOUSE OF DISCOUNT VIDEO

SQUEEEEEEEEEEEEEK

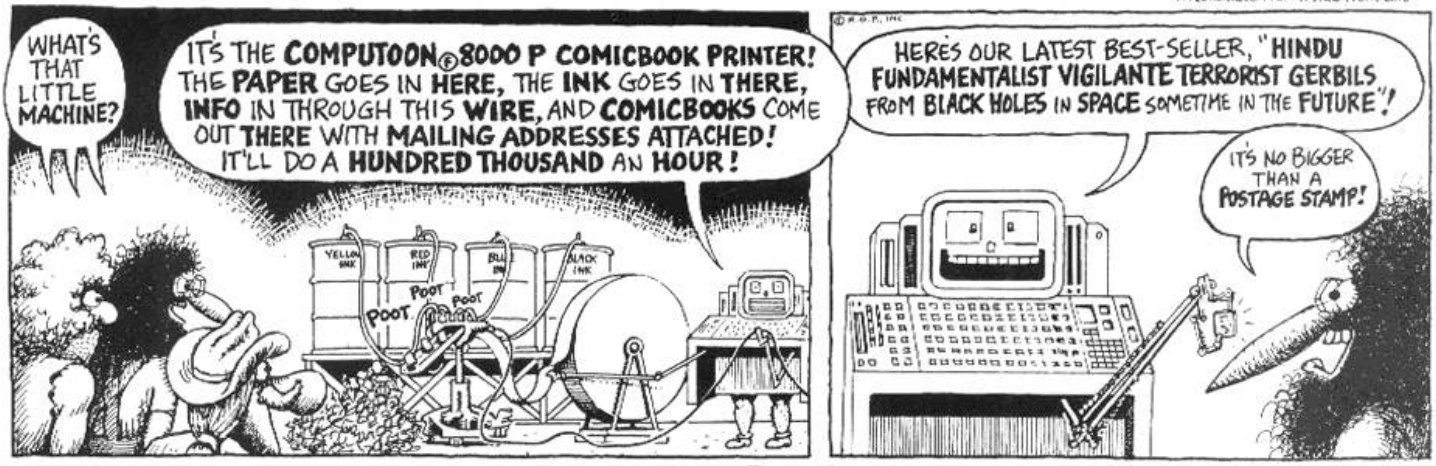
ARRRGHHHH! A GIANT COCKROACH!! HELP ME CATCH IT! COME ON!
SKITTER SKITTER

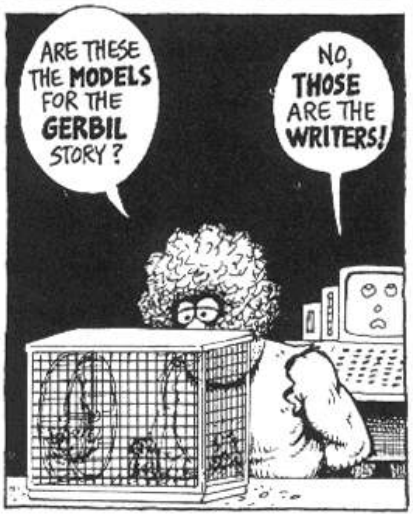
UGH! LET THE FILTHY THING GO, FREDDY!
BUT IT'S WEARING MY BEST SPORTS JACKET!
BANG
THUMP
CRASH
THUD

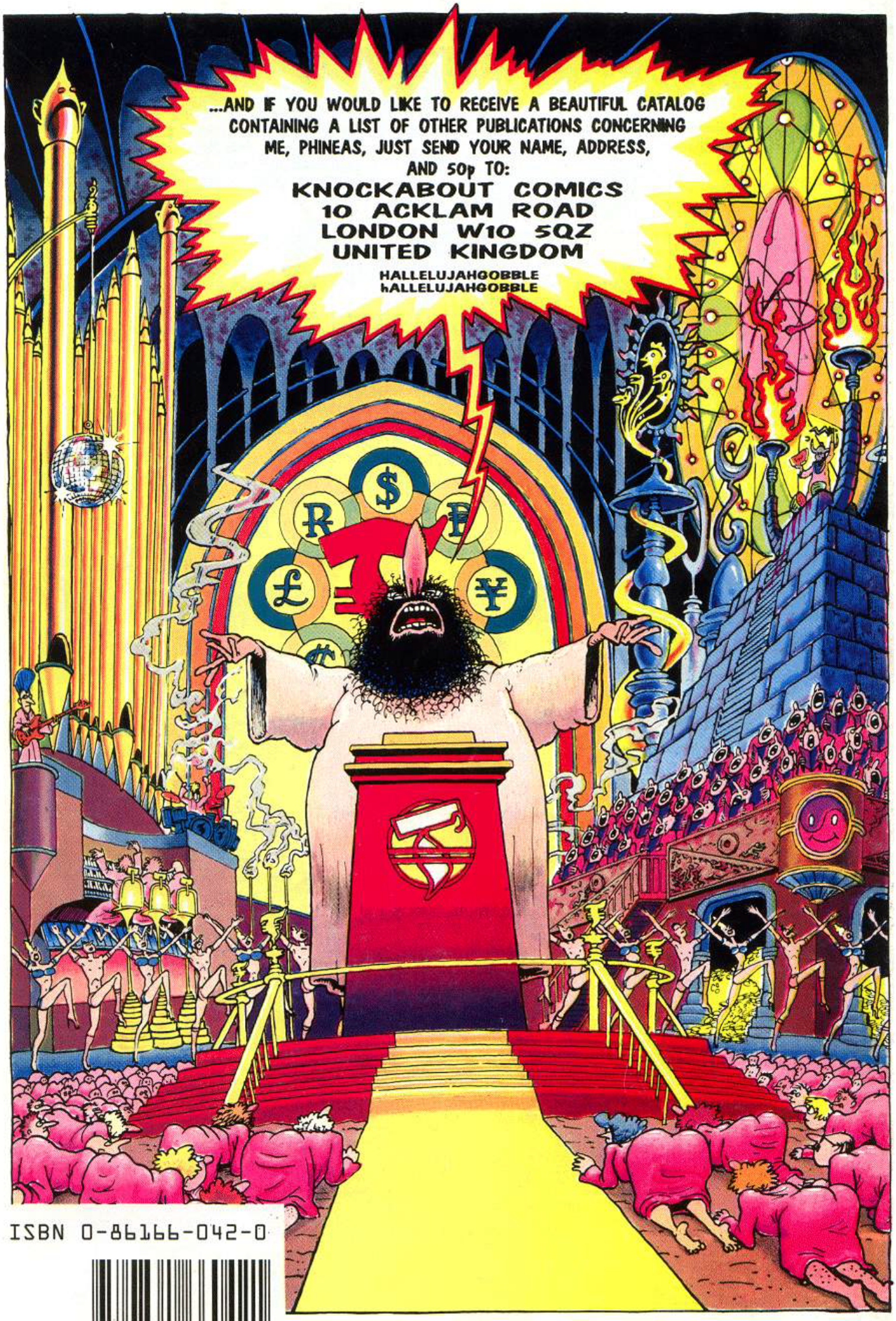
AND DOWN IN BOGOTA, NORBERT THE NARK, LONG AGO DECLARED LEGALLY DEAD WHEN HE FAILED TO RETURN TO HEADQUARTERS, STILL WAITS PATIENTLY FOR HIS PREY ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE FORMER AMERICAN EMBASSY.
WHO'S THE CRAZY GRINGO?
I DON'T KNOW - HE SEEMS HARMLESS ENOUGH, THOUGH! HE SHOWS UP EVERY DAY AT NOON AND HANGS AROUND FOR AN HOUR OR SO!
THE END

by way of explanation...

...continued from inside front cover







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